

1941

Administrative Actions

of the

Labour Government of Queensland

(1932-1940)

Compiled under the Direction of the
Hon. W. FORGAN SMITH, LL.D., M.L.A.,
Premier and Chief Secretary of Queensland.

A. H. Tucker, Government Printer, Brisbane.

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FOREWORD



This Pamphlet sets out in convenient form information and statistics concerning the administration of the Labour Government.

Taken with the Legislative Pamphlets for 1932 to 1940, which have already been issued, it will indicate the wide field of the Labour Government's activities during this period, and also the general progress of the State as a whole under Labour.

Condensed Statistics are also appended showing the accomplishments of the Labour Governments from 1915 to 1929.

W. V. Morgan Smith

Premier and Chief Secretary's Department,
4th February, 1941.

PART I.

Administrative Actions of the Labour Government.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

GENERAL REVIEW.

Education in Queensland under successive Labour Governments has developed in harmony with the Australian acceptance of the English public school tradition and the Scottish ideal of providing educational facilities from primary school to university for every child of the people.

The State is a large one—670,000 square miles—larger in extent than Great Britain, Germany, France, and Italy combined, and the population, although widely scattered throughout its enormous area, is a comparatively small one, numbering approximately 1,015,000 people. Consequently, in education, as in every other branch of social service, peculiar difficulties are met with, and the high standard of our State's educational system is something for the Queenslander to be proud of.

As the State has developed the Department of Education has extended its service to meet the new requirements, and during 1939, the latest period for which figures are available, 1,672 primary schools were maintained in Queensland and the average daily attendance of primary school pupils was 107,435, and of super-primary pupils, 6,344.

In addition to 1,672 primary schools there are also 26 rural schools, and special schools include three schools for coloured children, an "Opportunity School" (Dutton Park) for retarded and backward children (there are also opportunity classes attached to primary schools in Brisbane (2), Ipswich, Toowoomba, and Rockhampton), a hospital school, a school for the blind and deaf (Brisbane), and

classes are conducted at the Wilson Ophthalmic Hostel, the Montrose Home for Crippled Children, the Westbrook Farm Home, and at the Willowburn Home for Epileptics. There are also two intermediate schools and ten intermediate departments attached to primary and high schools. There are seventeen high schools and fourteen high school departments attached to primary schools.

Rural Requirements.

The requirements of the country child are carefully studied in Queensland, and each year witnesses a further expansion and enrichment of the system in the interests of the children of the outback.

A comparison of the costs per child for teachers' salaries during the year in a typical country school of twenty-four pupils and a town school of 292 pupils shows that, whereas it cost £10 5s. per child in the large school, the figure in the smaller school was £17.

The extra expense involved in country schools, however, is not permitted to affect the needs of the most isolated section of the community, and new schools are provided as soon as a minimum enrolment of twelve is assured. Of the 1,673 State primary schools in Queensland no fewer than 1,262 are situated in rural areas where the attendance is fifty pupils or less.

Teachers appointed to small country schools are as well prepared and as well qualified as those appointed to the towns, and all teachers must now undertake special preparation for the work of the one-teacher one-room school.

Manual Training.

In addition to the regular curriculum, but not at the expense of any important part of it, the majority of children in attendance at country schools receive some form of manual training. This usually takes the form of instruction and practice in woodwork, tinsmithing, and leather work for the boys, while the girls follow the various branches of domestic science.

These training facilities are provided at central schools in each district, to which the children from outlying schools travel by free transport on one day of each week. In 1939, 100 of these vocational centres served 700 schools.

This service is also provided for those parts of the State where settlement is so scattered that the "central school and feeder school" organisation cannot be established. Four travelling railway cars travelling in pairs (one of each pair giving instruction in manual training subjects for the boys, the other providing for the girls) visit outlying centres and remain in the one locality for a period of six or seven weeks. During this period pupils from the upper classes of the local primary schools concentrate on the manual training and domestic science subjects, and are able to cover a course of instruction similar to and as complete as that taken by pupils in larger centres, where, however, instruction given one day a week must extend for the whole of the school year.

Provision is also made for the instruction of adults, men and women, at evening classes, and many favourable comments have been received concerning the work of these "travelling classes."

Project Clubs.

In 1927, the first Project Club was organised. This form of education was designed for the development of the powers of initiative, observation, sense of responsibility, and for the development of knowledge gained by experience. School work is correlated with the interests of the home and local environment, and the pupil is guided to apply school instruction in practical fashion to interesting projects. These projects are undertaken for the purpose of gaining further knowledge of a subject or to apply knowledge, already gained by study, to a practical end.

To-day, 479 schools in Queensland have Project Clubs, and the aggregate membership is 10,120 children. Many former club members are now successful farmers, and the value of project club work is given in the interest shown by parents and others in each school's club day.

One hundred and twelve schools have established forest plots, and approximately 21,077 trees have been planted. The work of the grass and fodder project clubs included last year the planting of 5,000 packets of seed for the purpose of setting down trial plots of grasses, clovers, &c. So much has this work impressed the Queensland Pastoral Improvements Committee that a grant of £50 was made for pastoral project club work in 1940. Several show societies now organise district calf clubs for their centres, and children receive instruction in fruit packing and in milk and cream testing. For this latter activity 138 schools are provided with Babcock testers, and teachers annually show their interest in this work by passing the examinations in milk and cream testing set by the Department of Agriculture and Stock.

Several former project club members are making history in the dairying and livestock industries, and the influence of the project clubs in these rural industries may be accepted as being a very important one indeed.

Primary Correspondence School.

Families and groups of children beyond the reach of established schools, and too small to warrant the erection and maintenance of a school, are provided with a primary education, following much the same curriculum as others who attend school in the ordinary way, by the State Primary Correspondence School.

This system of correspondence tuition meets the requirements of almost 6,000 boys and girls, who are to be found in all parts of the State, from the New South Wales border to Thursday Island, and in New Guinea, Fiji, and even as far off as Japan, Northern Rhodesia, and Central India.

There are 112 teachers on the staff of the school, and every week between 9,000 and 10,000 mail packages are sent and received. Over 40,000 pupils have passed through the school since it opened in 1922.

The good work of the Correspondence School deserves to be better known. Its teachers are specialists in the difficult matter of teaching by correspondence, and it may

be justly claimed that the methods of instruction developed by this school rank with the best in use anywhere.

Circulating Library.

In order that schools might assist the young Queenslander to acquire a literary taste, and that he might be provided with the opportunity of reading a minimum number of good books during his school career, a circulating library scheme was inaugurated in 1937. Sets of books now circulate and pass from school to school, and last year 40,000 books were being used by more than half of the schools of the State.

The policy of the Department is to cater first for the schools in country districts, where the acquiring of good books is more difficult than in the towns, and it is significant that of schools so far served by this ever-growing library over 90 per cent. are small country schools, many of which are in very remote and isolated areas.

Radio and Cinema.

Many schools in the country are now equipped with wireless sets, and regular broadcasts to schools are arranged by the Department in collaboration with the Australian Broadcasting Commission. The broadcasts are given by teachers and others who are experienced in the subjects presented, and reports show that the broadcasts are particularly helpful to country schools and to pupils of the correspondence school.

The cinema has also entered the schoolroom, and children all over the State—and in remote places where many of them have never seen movies before—are now aided in their studies by this very effective adjunct of instruction.

The Department, through a special fund, enables school committees to purchase silent or sound projectors on very easy terms, and a film library has been established by the Department from which committees may hire films at very nominal charges.

The films in the library provided by the Department now number 400 and cost from £6 to £30 each.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

Thirty years ago secondary education was obtainable only at a few grammar schools and at the denominational schools situated in the larger towns. The cost of providing children with secondary education, especially country children whose homes were distant from the large centres of population, was in those days beyond the means of many parents and a considerable burden to most.

To-day there are seventeen high schools and fourteen high school departments attached to primary schools. There are two intermediate schools, and ten intermediate departments are attached to primary and high schools, and attendance at secondary schools has increased from 309 in 1912 to 7,271 in 1939.

Scholarships.

The maintenance of schools, however, is only one part of the Government's scheme of secondary education. Scholarships and scholarship allowances are another very important part by which secondary education is made possible for a large number of our youths.

The Moore Government's curtailment of necessary services in 1932 included the reduction by some thousands of the number of boys and girls who were assisted by scholarships to proceed to a secondary education. The return of the Labour Government in 1932, however, resulted in the restoration of the right to a scholarship to every child obtaining a qualifying pass in the Scholarship Examination.

In 1939 the number of scholarships awarded amounted to 4,840, which is the greatest number of scholarships awarded at one time since the institution of the scholarship system.

That the value of secondary education provided by the State is being recognised more and more by the people as a whole is evidenced in the increasing number of scholarships being taken up at State secondary schools as compared with those taken up at non-State secondary schools.

In 1932 the percentage of scholarships taken up at State schools amounted to 29.54 of the total, but by 1939 this number had increased to 44.07 per cent.

Scholarship Allowances.

Free tuition is provided for all scholarship-holders attending State secondary schools, and scholarship-holders attending approved non-State secondary schools have their tuition fees paid by the Department.

Last financial year, 1st July, 1939, to 30th June, 1940, fees paid by the Department for scholarship-holders attending grammar schools amounted to £12,438, and fees paid for scholarship-holders attending approved secondary schools amounted to £30,834, a total of £43,272.

Allowances are paid to scholarship-holders whose parents' income is not in excess of the basic wage or £40 per member of the family entirely dependent thereon.

These allowances are granted at the rate of £4 per annum to pupils who are able to live at home while attending a secondary school (State or approved), and £24 per annum if living away from home. During 1939 pupils who received the £4 allowance numbered 1,447, and pupils who received the allowance of £24 numbered 882.

The amount expended by the Department on scholarship allowances during the 1939-40 financial year was £22,615.

Extension Scholarships.

A two years' extension scholarship is granted to all scholarship-holders who, during the currency of their scholarship, pass the Junior Public Examination at a prescribed standard, and extension scholarships numbering 1,585 from 1st January, 1939, and 1,907 from 1st January, 1940, were awarded.

Open Scholarships to the University.

Twenty open scholarships are granted annually to the University of Queensland. The Senior Public Examination is used for purposes of the award of eighteen of these scholarships, and two scholarships are granted to students of the Queensland Agricultural High School and College.

Scholarships to Gatton College.

The following scholarships were awarded to the Queensland Agricultural High School and College, Gatton, from 1st January, 1940:—

State Scholarships	.. .. .	38
Scholarships on account of home project work		5
Extension Scholarships gained by College students	.. .. .	15
Extension Scholarships gained by students in attendance at other schools	.. .. .	3
		—
		61

Teachers' Training College.

A Teachers' Training College is maintained by the Department in order that the State's educational system shall be administered by an efficient staff, and the Training College is now the only avenue of entrance to the teaching staff of the Department.

A number of scholarships to the College is granted each year to successful Junior and Senior Public Examination candidates. In 1939, 100 Junior scholarship-holders and 99 Senior scholarship-holders were admitted to the College, and the enrolment at the College during 1939 was 457.

Students' Travelling Concessions.

An important aid to education is provided by the Government in the provision of free and subsidised transport facilities for pupils attending primary, secondary, and rural schools, which are granted on the following terms:—

Primary School Pupils.—Scholars under sixteen years of age, residing where there is no public school within one and a-half miles of their homes, are granted free second-class season tickets to enable them to attend the nearest public, denominational, or other approved private school to which the train service is available, provided that the scholars do not pass a State school.

Secondary School Pupils.—Second-class free season tickets, for a maximum distance not exceeding 30 miles, are issued to scholars who have completed the work of the seventh grade, and who are travelling daily to attend

secondary school classes, to enable them to attend the State High Schools or denominational High Schools at Ayr, Bundaberg, Cairns, Charters Towers, Gympie, Innisfail, Ipswich, Mackay, Maryborough, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, Roma, Toowoomba, Townsville, and Warwick; the Brisbane State High School, Commercial High School, Industrial High School, Domestic Science High School, Full-time Art School, Brisbane; the secondary classes of the State schools at Boonah, Bowen, Charleville, Childers, Dalby, Gatton, Gladstone, Herberton, Innisfail, Kingaroy, Mount Isa, Nambour, Southport, and Stanthorpe.

Rural School Pupils.—Second-class free season tickets are issued to scholars under seventeen years of age to enable them to attend the rural schools at Atherton, Babinda, Beenleigh, Beaudesert, Boonah, Clifton, Gayndah, Goondiwindi, Gordonvale, Home Hill, Ingham, Innisfail, Killarney, Lowood, Malanda, Marburg, Murgon, Nambour, Pomona, Proserpine, Sarina, Stanthorpe, Toogoolawah, and Tully.

Season tickets, at half the full season-ticket rates, may be issued to scholars attending any recognised day school, upon the certificate of the headmaster or mistress of the school.

Assistance was provided last financial year (1939-1940) as follows:—

Rail Transport—

Daily Travelling—	£	s.	d.
Primary schools	4,280	0	0
State High schools	2,130	0	0
Approved Secondary schools	6,390	0	0
Week-end and Vacation Travelling	3,016	19	1
Travelling to Rural schools and Vocational Classes	7,380	11	2

Road Transport—

Rural schools ..	£501	16	3
Primary schools ..	£821	16	0

Boat Transport—

Primary schools	1,323	12	3
	238	19	2

£24,760 1 8

(In addition to the above assistance, which is provided by the Department of Public Instruction, concessions are granted by the Railway Department to scholars and students under twenty-one years of age who attend technical and business colleges and private schools between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. for five days a week, on production of the approved certificate. This concession is granted irrespective of the subjects being studied.

The Railway Department also grants to students attending the University, and who are not in receipt of any remuneration, season tickets at half the ordinary rate if under 21 years of age, and at two-thirds of the ordinary rate if 21 years of age and over.)

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

“*The Technical Instruction Act Amendment Act of 1918*” enabled the Government to “take complete charge of and administer all or any of the colleges or institutions established for the purpose of technical instruction to which any aid or endowment has been given or granted.” This marked the end of the obnoxious system by which technical education was dependent on the whim and charity of the public.

In 1939, exclusive of students enrolled at high schools, 348 full-time and 6,873 part-time students were enrolled at technical colleges.

Technical Tuition by Correspondence.

Tuition by correspondence is also provided by the Department for apprentices in the mechanical and electrical engineering trades, including motor mechanics, fitters and turners, blacksmiths, boiler makers, pattern makers, and moulders. Apprenticeship carpenters and joiners and printers are also provided for, and a correspondence course for painters will commence in 1941.

The number of apprentices enrolled as correspondence students in 1939 was 585.

Apprenticeship Control.

"*The Apprenticeship Act of 1924*" made the indenturing of apprentices compulsory, prevented the "premium pupil" system of apprenticeship—which had debarred many a lad from following a trade for which he was particularly suited—and made compulsory the attendance of apprentices at technical classes.

It has been authoritatively stated that the Apprenticeship Act is second in industrial importance only to the Arbitration Act, and in education the benefits it confers are second only to the basic provision of "education, free, secular, and compulsory."

There is no doubt that the recognised high standard of technical knowledge and skill of the Queensland-trained artisan of to-day may be justly attributed to the provisions of the Apprenticeship Act.

Education in Agriculture.

Few professions demand such a very wide knowledge as those followed by the man on the land, and the importance of special training in farming pursuits is being more readily recognised in this age of advanced science.

The importance, therefore, of the Queensland Agricultural High School and College cannot be overestimated, for here the son of the farmer or grazier is provided with an education fully designed to fit him for his occupation, and, at the same time, meet his requirements in the subjects which he would ordinarily take at a non-technical secondary school.

The policy underlying the courses of study is well described as "the lining-up of educational facilities in agriculture with the vital importance of profitable farming and grazing to Queensland," and the policy has been faithfully and efficiently carried out.

Instruction and practical work are properly balanced, and since 1932 over £78,000 has been expended in additions and improvements. The consequence is that the primary producers of Queensland are now provided with an agricultural college which is admitted to be the equal of any similar institution in the Commonwealth.

The College is situated by the Lockyer Creek, and its grounds, paddocks, orchards, experimental lands, &c., comprise an area of 1,692 acres. It has a most up-to-date biological laboratory and science classroom for lectures on animals and machinery, and possesses every facility for the efficient instruction and welfare of the students, from mould-board ploughs to tractor combines, and from a talkie plant to a hospital in charge of a fully qualified matron.

Subjects and divisions of subjects studied are too numerous to mention here, but cover in theory and practice all branches of agriculture and all livestock management. Courses include dairy manufacture, chemistry, plant pathology, rural economics, pasture management and improvement, veterinary science, woolclassing, horticulture, irrigation, farm and station bookkeeping, treatment of diseases and wounds in stock, &c., &c.

Practical work is carried out in connection with horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, and poultry, the production of food and fodder crops, the use of farm machinery, and, in general, farm engineering, including woodwork, tin-smithing, leather work, and blacksmithing.

In the orchard, plant pathology, entomology, the raising of seedling stocks, budding and grafting, the laying out of orchards, vineyards, plantations, and vegetable gardens, and methods of irrigation are some of the activities and studies of the students.

High as the value of a Gatton College education unquestionably is, the cost of such an education is remarkably low.

For students entering the College without having passed the Scholarship or Junior examinations and, consequently, having to pay the full amount, the cost per annum is the inclusive one of £61. This is payable in half-yearly instalments of £30 10s. each, which fall due on 1st February and 1st July. This amount includes tuition fees, board, laundry, sports, medical fees, and a guarantee account for incidental requirements obtained through the College. So it is that for a little over £1 per week a

student may obtain a valuable college training and, by judicious use of his time, a diploma in the particular branch of primary production in which he is interested.

Scholarship and extension scholarship holders, and those students passing the Junior examination, are not required to pay the tuition fees (£12), and, in addition to free tuition, scholarship-holders whose parents' income does not exceed the basic wage or £40 per annum per member of the family entirely dependent upon parents or guardians for support are granted a rebate of the £30 board fees. There is, as is to be expected, certain wearing apparel to be provided by the student, but the cost of a Gatton College education is well within the means of large numbers of Queensland primary producers who so far may have failed to realise this fact.

The State Governor, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, summarised the value of Gatton College in 1934 in the following statement:—"The Agricultural College is the most important educational institution in the whole of Queensland. I have said this before and I repeat it now."

The University of Queensland.

The educational system in Queensland is completed by the University, which grants degrees in Arts, Science, Law, Medicine, Commerce, Agriculture, Engineering, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Applied Science, and Forestry and Surveying.

Diplomas are awarded in Education, Music, Journalism, Commerce, Engineering, and Architecture, and Certificates are awarded in Education, Architecture, and Accountancy.

There are also many organised public activities, including lectures in science, history, and languages, &c., tutorial classes, and post-graduate classes.

The expenditure by the Government on the work of the University for 1939 amounted to £41,576.

In August, 1937, the clearing and levelling of a site of 210 acres for modern buildings for the University was commenced, and in March, 1938, a building programme estimated to cost £500,000 was commenced.

Picturesquely situated in a sweeping reach of the Brisbane River at St. Lucia, the new headquarters of the University of Queensland will compare favourably with those of any university in Australia.

Ground improvements include athletic grounds, tennis courts, ovals for cricket and hockey and women's sports, while there is also a swimming pool, open air theatre, and rowing sheds and pontoons.

Buildings in course of erection, some of which are well advanced, include an administrative block for offices and library, and buildings for the faculties of chemistry and geology.

At 31st December, 1940, the amount expended on buildings was £260,000.

School Buildings and Grounds.

The erection, improvement, and maintenance of school buildings and teachers' residences is carried out by the Department of Public Works. During the financial year 1st July, 1939, to 30th June, 1940, eleven new schools were completed and additions were made to thirty schools. Many school buildings have been remodelled to provide extra accommodation and to conform to modern requirements. Fifteen new residences for teachers were completed during this period, and a further five residences were under construction.

Worthy of special mention is the new State High School and Technical College in course of erection at Cairns, and estimated to cost £30,000, and the new Girls and Infants' State school at South Toowoomba, which is estimated to cost £15,500.

Extensive ground improvements at State schools were undertaken in former years under the Intermittent Relief Scheme. During the last financial year further improvements to grounds were carried out under the special Full-time Employment Scheme.

During the last financial year expenditure on State, high school, and technical college buildings amounted to £188,359, and improvements to grounds £22,013, a total of £210,372. This work was carried out for the Department of Public Instruction by the Department of Public Works.

The War Effort.

The Federal Government's request for assistance in the training of technicians for the armed forces and munitions factories met with an immediate response on the part of the State Government.

At the Central Technical College, Brisbane, a workshop to accommodate 50 R.A.A.F. trainees was equipped with all necessary benches, vices, and machine tools. No better equipped workshop is available for this purpose in any part of the Commonwealth.

An existing machine-shop was duplicated and made available for the full-time training of turner-machinists.

Using the full equipment of the duplicated machine-shop at the Central Technical College and the machine-shop at the Ipswich Technical College, fifty-two men are constantly in full-time training in the day shift and forty in the night shift as turner-machinists for munition factories. The period of training covers from three to twelve months, according to ability, previous training, and experience.

The fact that a fuller use of the facilities provided by the State Government in the training of R.A.A.F. technicians is not being made by the Federal Government is much regretted and frequent representations have been made to the Minister for Air on this matter.

It is considered that it is unfair to the State, and to the trainees, that Queensland lads should have to proceed to a Southern State to undergo their course of training.

In response to a request from the Air Board, teachers in almost every centre where a State High school or a secondary class associated with a primary school is in operation have undertaken to conduct evening classes in Mathematics and Physics for Air Force reservists. These classes have been most successful and have been responsible for a reduction of several months in the period of training of the air crews concerned.

A recent appeal was made to teachers to undertake such instruction by correspondence, and it was estimated that between sixty and eighty teachers might be expected to respond to the appeal. The immediate response exceeded 200.

So far as Queensland is concerned, the requirements of the Federal Government in the training of technicians have been fully provided for, and the State Government will continue to co-operate in the war effort to the fullest extent of its resources.

EDUCATION STATISTICS—1939.

Primary schools (including provisional schools (71) and the Primary Correspondence School) ..	1,672
Rural schools	26
Intermediate schools (10 intermediate departments are also attached to Primary and High schools)	2
High schools (14 High school departments are also attached to Primary schools)	17
Special schools—	
Opportunity School (Opportunity Classes are also attached to Primary schools in Bris- bane (2), Ipswich, Toowoomba, and Rockhampton)	1
Coloured Children's schools	3
Hospital school	1
Wilson Ophthalmic Hostel	1
Montrose Home for Crippled Children ..	1
School for Epileptic Children	1
Westbrook Farm Home	1
School for the Blind and Deaf	1
Total	1,727
Teachers employed—	
Males	2,450
Females	1,896
Total	4,346

Attendance of Pupils and Students.

	Net	Average Daily
	Enrolment.	Attendance.
Primary schools (including Provisional schools and the Correspondence school)	133,516	107,435
Intermediate and High schools ..	7,838	6,344
Total	141,354	113,779

Technical Education.

There is a Central Technical College in Brisbane with Industrial, Domestic Science, and Arts schools for day pupils, and with technical classes for adults, where instruction is given in Engineering, Science, Chemistry, Building, Art, Domestic Science, Sheep and Wool, &c., &c.

Technical colleges are established in eleven country centres, and domestic science and commercial subjects are taught to adults in country centres not large enough for the establishment of technical colleges.

There were 348 full-time and 6,873 part-time students enrolled at technical colleges.

Agricultural High School and College.

Three hundred and twenty-one students were in residence and 22 others were following University courses.

Scholarship-Holders.

State Scholarship-holders attending State High, Grammar, and other approved Secondary schools during the last quarter of 1939 were as follows:—

State High schools	3,176
Grammar schools	1,246
Other approved secondary schools ..	2,849
Total	7,271

State Scholarships Awarded.

Candidates who entered for the State Scholarship Examination held in December, 1939, numbered 9,050.

The number obtaining passes was 4,740. This is the greatest number of State Scholarships awarded at one time since the institution of the Scholarship system.

(Since 1932 the population of the State has increased by 8.1 per cent., and the increased interest in education is seen in the fact that the number of candidates at the 1939 Scholarship Examination increased by 65 per cent. over the 1932 figure.

In the same period Junior Public Examination candidates increased by 48 per cent., and Senior Examination candidates increased by 47 per cent.)

Religious Instruction.

Free access to State schools for the purpose of religious instruction is available to all denominations in accordance with the Departmental Regulations. The highest figures during 1939 were recorded in September, when 70,621 children received instruction.

COSTS OF EDUCATION.

(1st July, 1939—30th June, 1940.)

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Administration .. ..	..	..	..	36,793	15	0
Inspectors' Salaries .. ..	..	..	..	19,896	17	2
Primary Education—						
Teachers' Salaries	1,177,304	19	0			
Provisional Schools	19,861	10	0			
Home Project Clubs	2,177	11	6			
Schools for Coloured Children	776	8	10			
Higher Cost of Living Expenses	26,604	9	1			
Allowances in lieu of Residences	16,107	6	2			
State Schools Travelling Expenses	10,094	12	1			
Rail Fares, Sanitation, &c.	60,967	5	10			
School Requisites	15,521	8	8			
Rural Schools	7,810	9	7			
School for Blind and Deaf	5,802	14	1			
				1,343,028	14	10

Secondary Education—

Salaries, Wages, Rail Fare, and Incidentals	74,363	4	7	
Tuition Fees paid for Scholarship-holders attending—				
Grammar Schools ..	13,467	3	0	
Approved Secondary Schools	29,806	3	6	
Allowances to Scholarship-holders	22,808	7	2	
Examination Expenses, Rail Fares, Printing, &c.	10,544	1	4	
Endowment to Grammar Schools—				
Brisbane Boys' Grammar	3,700	0	0	
Brisbane Girls' Grammar	1,900	0	0	
Ipswich Boys' Grammar	1,100	0	0	
Ipswich Girls' Grammar	1,100	0	0	
Rockhampton Boys' Grammar	1,100	0	0	
Rockhampton Girls' Grammar	1,100	0	0	
Toowoomba Boys' Grammar	1,100	0	0	
Townsville Grammar ..	1,100	0	0	
				163,188 19 7

Technical Education—

Administration	6,260	9	3	
Central Technical College	39,199	6	8	
Practical Instruction in State Schools ..	48,839	6	3	
Country and other Technical Colleges	39,326	17	1	
State Commercial High School and College ..	10,108	15	5	
Apprenticeship Committees and Juvenile Employment Bureau ..	3,566	0	7	
				147,300 15 3
Teachers' Training College ..	..			27,049 10 3
State Agricultural High School and College .. ..	..			24,420 10 2
University of Queensland ..	..			42,024 12 1
Grant to Schools of Arts Circulating Library .. ..	..			500 0 0

Total Expenditure on Education by the Department of Public Instruction, 1939-40 ..

1,804,203 14 4

Expenditure by Department of Public Works on School Buildings and Ground Improvements

210,372 0 0

Total Expenditure on Education, 1939-40

£2,014,575 0 0

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

General Review—1933-1940.

The employment of youth, including the problem of the "dead-end" job, has always presented a problem of considerable difficulty, not only to the sociologist but to the government whose policy is based on humanitarian motives.

In Queensland this problem has been under constant review by successive Labour Governments, and in 1933 the machinery assisting boys to find employment was correlated by the establishment of a Rural Employment Committee.

This Committee comprised the Chairman of the Apprenticeship Executive, the Principal of the Central Technical College, the Immigration Agent, and officers of the Department of Labour and Industry.

Rural employment was not the only concern of the Employment Committee, and classes in woodwork, metalwork, and leather work, and in housecrafts for girls, were instituted in technical college centres. These were attended by no fewer than 2,500 boys and girls in 1933.

During 1940 the number of boys attending these classes had fallen to 113, which is an indication of the great improvement in the field of employment.

While the contribution to economic recovery made by the Government's public works policy is generally appreciated, the Government's youth employment policy has not been so apparent, but it has also been of very considerable value.

Something of the value of the Government's policy may be seen in the fact that since 1935, when a Juvenile Employment Bureau was established, until the 31st December, 1940, no fewer than 23,772 boys and girls between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one had been placed in commercial, industrial, or rural employment.

The Juvenile Employment Bureau.

Early in January, 1935, the Premier announced the inauguration of a "Revival Employment Scheme for Boys and Girls," and allotted to the Department of Public Instruction the task of assisting boys and girls to find employment.

The Premier drew an analogy from the experience of the Department of Agriculture and Stock, which, until a few years ago, had been mainly concerned with the perfecting of the products of the land—crops, herds, flocks, and the products derived from them—while little thought had been given to the marketing of these products.

It had now been recognised that efficient marketing was as important as efficient production, and probably half of the activities of the Department of Agriculture and Stock were to-day devoted to marketing problems.

In the same manner the activities of the Department of Public Instruction had been devoted solely to perfecting the output of our schools, and no concerted action had been taken to ensure the placing in employment of educated youth—what might be termed the "marketing" of the human "product"; and so a scheme was designed which would enable the Department of Public Instruction to assist boys and girls to find positions best suited to their individual qualifications and attainments, and offering the best prospects of permanent employment.

To correlate this new function with the Department's established work of education a Board of Juvenile Employment was constituted and a Juvenile Employment Bureau was opened.

The Bureau was organised to comprise three sections—Commercial, Industrial, and Rural—and it was intended that the Department of Public Instruction, through the schools and teachers which could tap even the smallest communities and the most sparsely settled districts, would have the machinery necessary to serve young Queenslanders who were leaving primary and secondary schools and who were in search of employment.

The State Commercial High School and College had been doing effective work in finding positions for its students, placing in employment as many as from 60 to 80 per cent. of those enrolled, and the Principal was appointed officer in charge of the Commercial Section of the Bureau.

The Chairman of the Apprenticeship Executive was placed in charge of the Industrial Section, and the Immigration Agent, who had a wide experience in the placing of immigrant boys in rural employment, was placed in charge of the Rural Section of the Bureau.

The Commercial Section.

At the inauguration of the Commercial Section of the Bureau, a personal canvassing campaign was instituted in order to make known to metropolitan employers of juvenile labour the work and objects of the Commercial Section. An officer of this section visited most of the large metropolitan business houses, outlined the objects of the Bureau, and stressed the advantages to be obtained by approaching the Bureau when in need of a junior.

An important purpose of the Bureau was to bring the employer seeking a junior and a junior seeking a job into closer contact, the benefits of which would be obvious. The employer seeking a junior was requested to communicate direct with the Bureau and to give particulars of the vacancy to be filled and the type of junior required. The Bureau would then select from the active registrants a small number possessing the stated qualifications and would arrange for the necessary interviews with the employer.

One great advantage gained by employers approaching the Bureau was in the saving of time effected. It obviated the necessity of the employer first advertising the vacant position, wading through a large number of replies, selecting the number thought suitable for the position, arranging interviews, and then making the final choice. By utilising the services of the Bureau employers have in many cases secured suitable employees so promptly that vacancies have been filled within two hours of the application being made to the Bureau. This factor has been of great value on many occasions.

In the first year of the Bureau's operations the Commercial Section registered 1,463 boys and girls for employment and placed in employment 948. Of this number 551 were boys and 397 were girls.

Each year has showed an increase, until 1939, when war conditions upset the usual regular balance, but even then the Commercial Section placed in employment 527 boys and 583 girls, a total of 1,110 out of a registration of 1,601.

An important feature of the placing of the better qualified boy or girl in commercial employment is that they are soon established in the business world and in possession of excellent prospects of advancement.

The greatest difficulty is experienced, however, in finding commercial employment for youths over seventeen years of age, or for those who seek clerical work but who are without qualifications.

Parents should learn from this experience of the Bureau that to neglect the secondary education of their children to Junior Examination standard, a matter usually of two additional years at school, may result in a life-long handicap which will be out of all proportion to the two years "gained" in some dead-end form of employment. Since the inception of the Bureau in 1935 to the 31st December, 1940, the Commercial Section has placed 6,524 boys and girls in employment.

Rural Employment.

When the Bureau was established special attention was given to the encouragement of youths to undertake rural occupations, and a farm scholarship and juvenile forestry schemes were inaugurated.

Two hundred Farm Scholarships were offered by which a farm scholar would be paid 10s. a week and given a clothing allowance of £6 10s., which was estimated to be the cost of special clothing. Farmers by whom the scholars were employed were required to teach the scholars their work on the farms and feed and lodge them in return for their labour, but they were not required to pay any wages.

Parents of the scholars were required to agree that the boys would undergo twelve months' training on an approved farm, and farmers to whom the boys were to be allotted were to be carefully selected. Each farmer must provide a good home, produce evidence of his own success, be capable of giving instruction, and be engaged in a sufficiently wide variety of operations to provide the desired training in general mixed farming.

In order to encourage thrift, the boys were paid 5s. of the 10s. weekly wage and 5s. was retained by the Department. These amounts were allowed to accumulate for a year, when the boy could use the money as he desired or have a savings bank account opened for him. This arrangement was much appreciated by the majority of the boys and their parents, and has provided many a boy with a reserve for such purchases as he would require when proceeding to a new and better job.

Fifty Forestry Scholarships were offered of the same value and on similar terms to the farm scholarships. These offered training in such operations as clearing, fencing, timbergetting, &c., and carried the prospect of permanent employment on Government reserves.

Later, when the Federal Government made available to the State Government a grant of £30,000 to be spent on reafforestation, with the condition that one-fifth of the amount had to be used to provide juvenile employment, the State Government also provided £30,000, and this scheme was absorbed into a larger Juvenile Forestry Employment Scheme. A scale of wages was fixed by agreement with the Australian Workers' Union and ratified by the Court of Industrial Arbitration.

Under this scheme boys are employed in the different State Forestry Reserves in groups of from six to ten, each group under an officer.

The scale of wages was as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
Under 17 years of age	..	..	1	15	0
Over 17 and under 18	..	..	2	2	6
Over 18 and under 19	..	..	2	10	0
Over 19 and under 20	..	..	2	17	6
Over 20 and under 21	..	..	3	5	0

In the first year 433 boys were placed in farm jobs at wages ranging from 10s. a week, paid to the boy without previous experience, to 25s. and over for the experienced boy.

At the same time fifty farm scholarships, as described above, were allotted.

The Police Department assists very materially in investigating the circumstances of applicants for employees, and the number of misplacements has, consequently, been remarkably small, and in almost every case attributable to the boy and not to the farmer.

Innumerable tributes have been made by parents to the Bureau in expression of the appreciation of what had been done for their sons in giving them a start in life.

In the Premier's initial announcement of the scheme he stated—

“It is definitely the Government's desire to encourage these boys to become future settlers with farms of their own.”

Inquiries have consequently been made by the Rural Committee of the Bureau of Industry into schemes whereby lads appointed to farms by the Juvenile Employment Bureau might be settled on the land as owner-farmers, and every assistance will be provided by the Government to this end.

When the success of the Bureau's work had been demonstrated, it was decided to open branches at Ipswich, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, and Toowoomba, their activities being conducted in conjunction with the work of the technical colleges at these centres.

Subsidized Rural Juvenile Employment Scheme.

In 1937, largely as a result of suggestions made by the Council of Agriculture that “encouragement should be given to youths to go into the country to work by the payment from Unemployment Relief Funds of a subsidy on wages of 5s. to 10s. per week,” a Subsidized Rural Juvenile Employment Scheme was introduced.

The experience of the rural section of the Bureau indicated that the wages for juvenile farm workers had been more or less fixed by custom.

Lads from fifteen to sixteen years of age without previous farm experience received a wage of 10s. a week, and it was the usual thing to find that if a lad made satisfactory progress this wage was increased to 12s. 6d. at the end of six months, and 15s. at the end of twelve months. After about two years of farm work a competent lad of eighteen years or over had little difficulty, in normal seasons, in finding a position at £1 per week and keep.

Acting upon this experience, it was decided to subsidize the rate of wages of lads appointed to farm jobs so that a lad under eighteen years of age would receive 17s. 6d. per week, and if over eighteen and under twenty years £1 per week.

Within a few weeks of the announcement of the subsidized scheme, 300 applications were received from farmers, but a serious drought began to have an effect on the demand for farm labour, and a large number of boys who had applied for work under the scheme had to find employment elsewhere.

At the same time, in spite of the adverse seasonal conditions, from the placing of the first boy in May, 1937, to the end of the year positions had been found for 374 out of 569 applicants.

It is to be noted that the scheme was formulated to meet what was stated by the farmers' own organization to be a difficulty met by the farmer in obtaining farm labour, and that the Bureau was able to provide, in response to the farmers' requests, more labour than could be absorbed.

The scheme was a provisional one to be reviewed at the end of twelve months, and the measure of success achieved by it in that period justified not only its continuance but its extension to cover a period of training of two years, and this was consequently decided upon by the Government.

The subsidy was now arranged on a sliding scale, whereby, as the skill of the boy improved, the subsidy paid by the Bureau was reduced and the wage paid by the farmer increased to a corresponding amount, as shown in the following table:—

Period.	Age 16 to 18.		Age 18 to 20.	
	Wage.	Subsidy.	Wage.	Subsidy.
	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
During the first six months ..	10 0	7 6	10 0	10 0
During the second six months..	12 6	5 0	12 6	7 6
During the third six months ..	15 0	2 6	15 0	5 0
During the fourth six months..	15 0	2 6	17 0	2 6
Amount received per week by the Employee over the whole period	17s. 6d.		£1	

Since the inception of the Bureau in 1935 to 31st December, 1940, 6,531 boys have been registered with the Rural branch of the Bureau, and of this number 4,734 have been placed in employment.

Industrial Section.

This section is primarily concerned with the engagement of youths seeking positions as apprentices, minors and floor boys, factory hands, assistants in any trade, and for females as dressmakers, milliners, and waitresses, &c.

The routine followed is practically the same as in the case of the Commercial Section. The employer seeking a junior is required to communicate with the Industrial Section, setting out particulars of the vacancy to be filled and the type of junior required. The Section then selects from active registrants a number possessing the requisite qualifications, and arranges the necessary interviews.

In the case of apprenticeships and industrial work requiring more than average intelligence, no difficulty is experienced by this section in placing youths possessing industrial Junior Examination certificates. It is also the experience of this section that youths possessing these

certificates are almost all placed in positions before the end of the first half of the year, and great difficulty is experienced in finding qualified juniors for good positions which occur in the latter half of the year.

As in the case of the Commercial Section, the Industrial Section experiences great difficulty in finding positions for youths of eighteen years and over.

Generally, throughout each year, in most trades and callings there are more registrants than vacancies, and in some instances youths fail to obtain employment through determination to secure work in one class of trade only when avenues of employment existed in other directions.

Since the inception of the Bureau in 1935 to the 31st December, 1940, a total of 18,519 boys and girls have been registered with the Industrial Section of the Bureau, and of this number 11,036 have been placed in employment.

Country Centres.

In addition to the youths placed in employment by the Commercial, Rural, and Industrial Sections as given above, country centres at Bundaberg, Mackay, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, and Townsville have registered 1,946 boys and girls since 1935, and 1,478 have been placed in employment.

Juvenile Employment Bureau—Statistics.

January, 1935—December, 1940.

Commercial Section—				Boys.	Girls.	Total
Registrations	..	..	..	4,310	4,704	9,014
Placements	..	..	..	3,218	3,306	6,524
Industrial Section—						
Registrations	..	..	..	16,040	2,479	18,519
Placements	..	..	..	9,618	1,418	11,036
Rural Section—				Unsubsidised. Subsidised. Total.		
Registrations	..	..	..	4,799	1,732	6,531
Placements	..	..	..	3,383	1,351	4,734
Country Branches—				Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Registrations	..	..	..	1,107	839	1,946
Placements	..	..	..	876	602	1,478
All Sections—						
Registrations	..	..	..	27,988	8,022	36,010
Placements	..	..	..	18,446	5,326	23,772

**Classes of Establishments and Number of Placements in
each from the Commercial Section of the Bureau.**

	1939.	1940.
Government and Semi-government		
Institutions	143	159
Banks and Insurance Offices ..	35	47
Professional Offices	270	152
Distributing Houses	431	423
Manufacturing Businesses	198	229
Other Businesses	33	129
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1,110	1,139

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY.

ALLEVIATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND RELIEF.

*Brief synopsis of activities from 1932 to 30th June, 1940.
(For full particulars see previous pamphlet.)*

Improvements in Relief Assistance—Rates of Pay, &c.

Since May, 1932, various improvements were made in the scope of relief assistance to married and single men unemployed, and the following summary indicates the extent of such improvements, not only in regard to relief work, but also with respect to ration relief:—

1. As from the 28th June, 1932, single men approved as eligible for ration relief were allowed to draw rations in their home town, instead of being compelled to travel from place to place to secure such rations.
2. As from the 15th August, 1932—
 - (a) The basic rates of pay prescribed by the Local Authorities Award were paid to all relief workers as from 15th August, 1932. (On the basis of the average working period of each man—i.e., 2.18 days weekly, these increased rates represented an annual increase in pay of approximately £14 in the Southern and Central Division and £24 in the Northern Division.)

- (b) The allowance for skilled work was increased from 6d. to 1s. per day.
 - (c) All single men without means were granted rations for one week and Intermittent Relief Work for one day in the following week. Where Intermittent Relief Work was not available, rations were provided weekly.
3. As from 26th August, 1932, the basis of assessment was amended to provide for the taking into account of a percentage of the earnings of children living at home, to permit of reasonable allowance being made for the individual requirements of such children. Previously it had been the practice to take into account the whole of the earnings of such children.
 4. As from 29th August, 1932, unemployed sons over 18 years of age of men who were employees but not relief workers, and whose income did not exceed the basic wage, were entitled to one day's work per fortnight, and where the family exceeded three children living at home, also to rations in the alternate week.
 5. As from 29th August, 1932, single men sons of relief workers or of women on rations or in receipt of State aid, were classed as eligible for relief assistance—i.e., one day's work and rations in alternate weeks.
 6. As from 6th September, 1934, single men residing with their parents, where the father's income was less than the basic wage, received one day's work and rations in alternate weeks, irrespective of the source of such income.
 7. As from 8th April, 1935, single men finishing their period on rotational work instead of standing down from Intermittent Relief Work for three weeks as previously, were only required to stand down one week.

8. As from 2nd September, 1935—

- (a) Increases were granted in the Intermittent Relief Work scales, such increases ranging from 2s. 6d. to £1 0s. 6d. per week. Parities which already obtained in accordance with the divisions and districts prescribed in the Local Authorities' Award were preserved in the new rates.
- (b) Single men eligible to receive relief assistance were granted one day's work each week instead of one day's work and rations in alternate weeks as formerly.
- (c) An increase of 1s. 6d. per week all round was made in the relative ration scales up to eight children, and the provision of new scales up to eleven dependent children.
- (d) Basic wage parities were extended to ration relief recipients. Although parities had been added to Intermittent Relief Work scales they were not applicable in the case of ration allowances, meaning, in effect, that the ration scale operating in remote centres of the State was just the same as that obtaining in the metropolitan area, despite the difference in the cost of living.

9. As from 1st August, 1936, on production of a medical certificate, sick pay at full Intermittent Relief Work rates was granted up to a maximum of eight weeks per annum.

10. As from 5th April, 1937, the equivalent of the basic wage increase—9d. per day all round—was extended to Intermittent Relief Workers throughout the State.

11. As from 31st May, 1937, ration relief rates were increased on proportionate basis to the increase in the basic wage.

12. As from 4th April, 1938, the equivalent of the basic wage increase—6d. per day—was extended to Intermittent Relief Workers throughout the State.
13. As from 19th September, 1938, ration relief assistance was granted in the form of half cash (to the nearest 1s. above) and half rations, instead of wholly in rations, as had previously operated.
14. In special cases where the circumstances warranted and a medical certificate was produced, rations to the value of 5s. per week were granted to provide extra nourishment to either one of the parents or any ailing child.
15. Moreover, expectant mothers were granted additional rations at the rate of 5s. per week up to a period of twelve weeks as a maternity allowance, subject to the production of a medical certificate.

Winter Relief and Christmas Cheer Distributions.

In May, 1934, it was decided to make a Winter Relief distribution to relief recipients to relieve a great deal of the privation existing amongst the unemployed and their families. The distribution was in the form of a grant to all men both married and single of a pair of boots and a blanket valued at 17s. 6d., while single girls who were in receipt of ration assistance received a clothing order to the value of 12s. 6d.

Wives of Intermittent Relief Workers or ration recipients received a similar order, plus an additional amount of 5s. for each of their dependent children. Widows and women living apart from their husbands also participated in this gift to the same extent. Men classed as travellers were issued with a clothing order to the value of 17s. 6d. each. Northern and Western parities were added to the value of all clothing orders issued, including travellers' orders.

In 1935 it was decided to make a Christmas Cheer distribution in December. The payments, however, were on a cash distribution instead of in clothing, so that the recipients had an unrestricted choice in the spending of the Christmas gift, and were able to use it to the best advantage in the purchase of foodstuffs, drapery, clothing, &c. The basis of the distribution was in the same proportion as that of the previous Winter Relief distribution, viz., married men 17s. 6d. for themselves, 12s. 6d. for the wife, and 5s. for each child included in the family scale for Intermittent Relief Work or relief rations, parities being provided as formerly.

A Winter Relief distribution and a Christmas Cheer distribution have been made each year subsequently on the same basis, and the following table discloses the expenditure incurred therein:—

—		Winter Relief.	Christmas Cheer.
		£	£
Year ended 30th June, 1934	..	48,396	..
Year ended 30th June, 1935	..	43,281	43,266
Year ended 30th June, 1936	..	49,594	41,872
Year ended 30th June, 1937	..	44,544	43,327
Year ended 30th June, 1938	..	40,990	39,845
Year ended 30th June, 1939	..	21,981	26,226
Year ended 30th June, 1940	..	19,686	18,575
		£268,472	£213,111
Total	.. .. .	£481,583	

A further Christmas Cheer distribution was made in December, 1940.

FURTHER STATISTICS.

(Extracts from Reports of the Under Secretary, Department of Labour and Industry, upon the operations and proceedings under "The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts, 1930 to 1935," for the years ended 30th June, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, and for the period 1st July, 1938, to 31st December, 1938, and under "The Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938" for the period 1st January, 1939, to 30th June, 1939, and for the financial year ended 30th June, 1940.)

Finance.

(Income (Unemployment Relief) to 31st December, 1938.)

(Income (State Development) from 1st January, 1939.)

Year.	Income.		Expenditure.	
	Unemployment Relief Fund.	State Development Tax.	Unemployment Relief Fund.	State Development Tax.
	£	£	£	£
1930-31	702,640	..	700,112	..
1931-32	1,089,645	..	1,200,674	..
1932-33	1,806,010	..	1,771,111	..
1933-34	1,967,942	..	1,903,888	..
1934-35	2,425,917	..	1,674,393	..
1935-36	2,494,637	..	2,653,182	..
1936-37	2,637,172	..	3,059,964	..
1937-38	2,806,961	..	2,664,313	..
1938-39	1,118,603	1,332,751	1,109,347	1,123,448
1939-40 .. .. .	..	2,255,197	..	2,030,847

NOTE.—The overdraft in the Unemployment Relief Fund on 1st July, 1932, was £108,501. The credit balance in the Fund at the date of closing the Fund—31st December, 1938—was £312,542.

As provided by "The Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938," the Unemployment Relief Fund was closed and all moneys standing to the credit of the Fund were transferred to Consolidated Revenue as from 1st January, 1939. This Act also prescribed that as from 1st January, 1939, all tax collected under the Act shall be paid into Consolidated Revenue.

Details of Expenditure from the Unemployment Relief Fund and State Development Tax.

	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.			1939-40.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	Unemploy- ment Relief Fund.	State Develop- ment Tax.	Total for 1938-39.	State Develop- ment Tax.
<i>Relief Works.</i>											
Full-time Relief Work ..	287,899	114,513	36,760	89,553	277,727	122,712	136,903	336,125	607,385	943,510	873,798
Rotational Relief Work ..	767,684	1,378,182	1,481,262	1,175,289	1,292,400	21,318	1,385,203	378,216	62,751	440,967	.. 895
Intermittent Relief Work ..	82,667	186,153	230,608	238,897	234,448	1,367,949	298,327	203,867	302,241	506,108	564,576
Ration Relief Assistance ..	..	..	43,801	32,676	48,194	45,613	40,376	154	21,685	21,839	19,801
Winter Relief ..	..	..	..	21,640	41,867	65,031	40,836	24,454	1,772	26,226	18,575
Christmas Cheer ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Social Services—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Subsidies and Grants Ac- count, Clothing Relief, Transport, Rent, &c.	13,212	21,194	12,040	10,699	9,852	9,804	9,215	4,380	4,073	8,453	8,456
Rural and Vocational Training Relief Tax, Intermittent Relief Workers	2,147 7,079	3,941 15,907	5,992 17,359	4,216 13,808	3,235 11,985	3,293 12,432	6,245 9,533	27,595 ..	1,952 2,735	29,547 2,735	3,435 ..
Workers' Compensation Premium	..	..	300	1,259	1,112	1,473	1,952	..	2,139	2,139	5
Small Farm Settlements ..	..	..	2,063	1,475	3,359	2,320	1,729	475	299	774	565
Administrative Expenses ..	39,986	52,221	73,703	80,868	94,397	113,700	124,700	55,206	55,496	110,702	103,935
Eradication of Weil's Disease	..	..	..	4,033	7,161	1,995	2,721	1,618	981	2,599	..
Family Allowance, Holiday Pay, and Sick Pay	..	..	..	..	86,359	151,084	156,890	34,539	8,703	43,242	..
Educational Assistance	..	..	..	..	3,042	3,705	3,839	1,077	1,410	2,487	1,420
Loans, Grants, Subsidies, and Interest	..	..	..	..	538,044	902,046	445,136	21,151	49,700	70,851	64,638
Wages Advance and In- cidentals	..	..	..	..	..	1,959	708	20,490	126	20,616	..
Interest and Sinking Fund, &c.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	370,748
£	1,200,674	1,771,111	1,903,888	1,674,393	2,653,182	3,059,964	2,664,313	1,109,347	1,123,448	2,232,795	2,030,847

PROGRESSIVE EXPENDITURE IN REGARD TO EMPLOYMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

Year 1932-33.

Altogether it may be said that the total funds expended for the direct purpose of providing employment amounted to £4,610,184, which represented over £2,000,000 more than the amount expended from the same sources in the previous year (1931-32).

The principal items were:—Unemployment Relief Fund, £1,492,695; Main Roads, £951,193; Commonwealth-States Loan for Relief of Unemployment, £556,070; Special State Loan for Relief of Unemployment, £362,278; Loans to Local Bodies, £327,000; Buildings, £243,200; Workers' Dwellings, £207,999; and Agricultural Bank, £228,989.

Year 1933-34.

Altogether, it may be said that the total funds expended for the direct purpose of providing employment amounted to £4,921,476, as compared with £4,610,184 for the year 1932-33, or an increase of £311,292. The principal items, other than the amount provided from Unemployment Relief Fund, were:—Railways, £366,281; Agricultural Bank, £153,518; Loans and Subsidies—Local Authorities and other Bodies, £966,184; Main Roads, £872,844; State Advances (Workers' Dwellings), £197,747; Commonwealth-States Loan (Relief of Unemployment), £73,620; Buildings, £357,208; Land Settlement, £171,857.

Year 1934-35.

Altogether, it may be said that the total funds expended for the direct purpose of providing employment amounted to £6,626,939, as compared with £4,921,476 for the year 1933-34, or an increase of £1,705,463. The principal items other than the amount provided from Unemployment Relief Fund were:—Railways, £872,995;

Agricultural Bank and Bureau of Rural Development, £190,881; Buildings, £527,980; Loans and Subsidies to Local Authorities and other Bodies, £1,375,039; Commonwealth-States Loan for Relief of Unemployment, £62,389; State Advances—Workers' Dwellings, Workers' Homes, &c., £288,696; Main Roads, £1,561,200; Land Settlement—Public Estate Improvement, Forestry, &c., £384,883.

Year 1935-36.

Altogether, it may be said that the total funds expended for the direct purpose of providing employment amounted to £6,791,448, as compared with £6,626,939 for the year 1934-35, an increase of £164,509. The principal items, other than the amount provided from Unemployment Relief Funds, were:—Buildings, £494,198; Loans for erection of Workers' Dwellings and Workers' Homes, &c., £362,636; Mains Roads Commission, £1,260,853; Loans and Subsidies to Local Authorities and other Bodies, £1,314,774; Land Settlement—Public Estate Improvement, Forestry, &c., £418,344; Advances by Agricultural Bank to Farmers and Graziers, £233,337; Railways, £693,712.

Year 1936-37.

Altogether, it may be said that the total funds expended for the direct purpose of providing employment amounted to £6,552,685. The principal items, other than the amount provided from the Unemployment Relief Fund, were:—Buildings, £393,089; Loans for erection of Workers' Dwellings and Workers' Homes, &c., £314,766; Main Roads, £1,211,783; Loans and Subsidies to Local Authorities and other Bodies, £1,433,183; Flood Mitigation Works, £110,519; Stanley River Dam, £180,000; Land Settlement, Public Estate Improvement, Forestry, &c., £309,601; Advances by Agricultural Bank to farmers and graziers and fodder relief, £308,716; Mining, £34,481; Railways, £545,979.

Year 1937-38.

Altogether, it may be said that the total funds expended for the direct purpose of providing employment amounted to £6,690,959. The principal items, other than the amount provided for Unemployment Relief Fund, were:—Buildings, £406,936; State Advances, Workers' Dwellings, Workers' Homes, &c., £407,326; Main Roads, £1,368,202; Loans and Subsidies to Local Authorities and other Bodies, £1,529,348; Land Settlement, Public Estate Improvement, Forestry, &c., £307,728; Advances by Agricultural Bank to farmers and graziers and fodder relief, £219,033; Mining Assistance, £27,635; Flood Mitigation Works, £69,236; Railways, £539,876.

Year 1938-39.

Altogether, it may be said that the total funds expended for the direct purpose of providing employment amounted to £6,997,202. The principal items, other than the amount provided from the Unemployment Relief Fund, Unemployment Insurance Fund, and Income (State Development) Tax, were:—Buildings, £390,447; State Advances, Workers' Dwellings, Workers' Homes, £331,914; Main Roads, £1,448,555; Loans and Subsidies to Local Authorities and other Bodies, £1,683,257; Land Settlement, Public Estate Improvement, Forestry, &c., £233,697; Special Employment Works Loan, £250,000; Advances by Agricultural Bank and Bureau of Rural Development to Farmers and Graziers and Fodder Relief, £267,716; Railways, £457,895; Stanley River Dam, £260,000.

Year 1939-40.

Altogether, it may be said that the total funds expended for the direct purpose of providing employment amounted to £6,460,923. The principal items, other than the amount provided from the Income (State Development) Tax, were:—Land Settlement, Public Estate

Improvement, Forestry, &c., £211,962; Main Roads, £1,353,134; Loans and Subsidies to Local Authorities and other Bodies, £1,591,114; Special Employment Works Loan, £293,945; Stanley River Dam, £442,000; State Advances, Workers' Dwellings, Workers' Homes, &c., £324,615; Agricultural Bank and Bureau of Rural Development advances to Farmers and Graziers and Fodder Relief, £212,356; Buildings, £497,122; Railways, £486,696.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S WORKS POLICY.

Year 1932-33.—£4,610,184 expended in the promotion of development and employment, and relief of unemployment.

Year 1933-34.—£4,921,476 appropriated.

Year 1934-35.—£6,626,939 appropriated.

Year 1935-36.—£6,791,448 appropriated.

Year 1936-37.—£6,552,685 appropriated.

Year 1937-38.—£6,690,959 appropriated.

Year 1938-39.—£6,997,202 appropriated.

Year 1939-40.—£6,460,923 appropriated.

Year 1931-32.—Last of Moore Government, £2,602,020.

LABOUR'S POLICY OF DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT.

The following Table shows Expenditure illustrating the avenue through which the Government's Policy of Development and Employment has been pursued:—

	1931-32 Labour Govern- ment.	1932-33 Labour Govern- ment.	1933-34 Labour Govern- ment.	1934-35 Labour Govern- ment.	1935-36 Labour Govern- ment.	1936-37 Labour Govern- ment.	1937-38 Labour Govern- ment.	1938-39 Labour Govern- ment.	1939-40 Labour Govern- ment.
Railways	£ 70,584	£ 55,406	£ 366,281	£ 872,995	£ 693,712	£ 545,979	£ 539,876	£ 457,895	£ 486,696
Agricultural Bank and Bureau of Rural Development	209,431	228,989	153,518	190,881	233,337	308,716	219,033	267,716	212,356
Buildings	84,358	243,200	357,208	527,980	494,198	393,089	406,936	390,447	497,122
Forestry	20,000	44,102	70,000	88,562	107,000	87,756	93,980	70,008	66,581
Land Settlement, &c.	21,445	19,493	171,857	296,321	311,344	221,845	213,748	163,689	145,381
Loans and Subsidies to Local Authorities and Other Bodies	306,371	327,000	966,184	1,375,039	1,314,774	1,433,183	1,529,348	1,683,257	1,591,114
Main Roads	587,962	951,193	872,844	1,561,200	1,260,853	1,211,783	1,368,202	1,448,555	1,353,134
Commonwealth-States Loan for Relief of Unemployment	8,062	556,070	73,620	62,389	75,442	..	..	..	..
Special Loan for relief of Unemployment .. .. .	..	362,278	..	3,801	..	..	..	250,000	293,945
Water Supply	43,326	26,847	18,100	17,893	92,265	180,000	75,000	260,000	442,000
Unemployment Relief Income (State Development) Tax, and Unemployment Insurance Fund	1,055,583	1,492,695	1,543,996	1,264,821	1,676,486	1,673,063	1,686,746	1,573,993	959,775
State Advances—									
Workers' Dwellings	116,611	207,999	197,747	288,696	329,154	314,766	407,326	331,914	324,615
Workers' Homes	27,667	31,736	39,468	31,077	33,482	..	..	..	..
Buildings, Improvements, &c. .. .. .	..	..	61,665	45,284	30,445	37,505	53,893	56,126	48,944
Prickly-pear Commission	50,620	63,176	..	..	20,000	34,481	27,635	27,861	23,260
Grants and Loans in aid of Mining .. .. .	..	..	..	..	118,956	110,519	69,236	15,741	16,000
Brisbane River Improvement Works .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
£	2,602,020	4,610,184	4,921,476	6,626,939	6,791,448	6,552,685	6,690,959	6,997,202	6,460,923

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT.

Despite the fact that the Government had effected improvements in the conditions and rates of payment of intermittent relief workers, nevertheless it still considered that the Scheme was a temporary one, that the principle was uneconomic, and rather that men should be given the opportunity of full-time employment on productive works.

It was also pointed out in the Budget that the intermittent relief work scheme had reached such proportions that the economical organisation and profitable use of intermittent relief work labour varying as it did from day to day was impracticable of attainment.

Not only would full-time work result in the rehabilitation of those on intermittent relief work and in receipt of ration relief assistance, but it would give these people a better outlook on life. Consequently, after thorough and careful investigation and as a further progressive movement in the development of its policy, the Government decided in July, 1938, to gradually taper off intermittent relief work with a view to its total abolition on 30th June, 1939.

The first reduction of those on intermittent relief work was made on the 17th September, 1938, when 50 per cent. of the married men and the whole of the single men drawing relief at that date were reverted to ration relief assistance.

A further reduction in the married men who were continued on intermittent relief work took place at the 31st December, 1938, when a further 50 per cent. were reverted to ration relief assistance.

On the 30th June, 1939, the Intermittent Relief Work Scheme ceased to operate.

To provide continuity in the establishment of full-time employment works, the Government, by passing "*The State Development and Public Works Organisation Act of 1938*," provided for a forward planning system of public

works which, with the principle of co-ordination established in this measure, would permit of comprehensive schemes being introduced to create employment.

This lastmentioned Act was also linked up with the Rural Development Transfer and Co-ordination of Powers Act and the Income (State Development) Tax Act, which three measures formed the plan for organised development and forward planning.

In lieu of the Unemployment Relief Fund—which *inter alia* met the cost of intermittent relief work—under “*The Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938*,” all tax collected has to be paid to Consolidated Revenue, from which will be diverted such sums to a Special Employment Works Fund, as, with other allocations, would finance the various schemes to be undertaken under the forward planning principle, and in this way provide a continuity of full-time employment.

The Special Employment Works for the year ended 30th June, 1939, the first year of operations under the co-ordinated plan, consisted of moneys derived from taxation under “*The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts, 1930 to 1935*,” and “*The Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938*,” in addition to allocations from the Unemployed Workers’ Insurance Fund and Loan Funds as under:—

Unemployment Relief and State Develop-	£
ment Tax	889,115
Unemployed Workers’ Insurance Fund	130,000
Loan Funds	933,390
	<hr/>
	£1,952,505

The special employment scheme for such full-time employment comprised work to be carried out by Main Roads Commission, Forestry Department, Public Estate Improvement Branch of the Lands Department, and the Harbours and Marine Department.

For the year ended 30th June, 1940, the sum of £2,070,667, being £848,916 from Consolidated Revenue (Income (State Development) Tax) and £1,221,751 Loan Funds, was made available for full-time employment.

The total expenditure from the Special Full-time Employment Works Fund during the years in question is shown in the following table:—

—	1938-39.	1939-40.
	£	£
Main Roads Commission	972,000	754,149
Forestry Sub-Department	322,241	326,222
Public Estate Improvement Branch	350,515	277,754
Department of Harbours and Marine	47,749	47,681
Stanley River Dam	260,000	442,000
Department of Railways .. ..	..	45,043
Bureau of Industry .. ..	..	65,000
Sundry Works .. ..	..	112,818
	£1,952,505	£2,070,667

The Special Employment Works Fund, which was created for special works to give employment to those who had previously been on relief, has been closed, as hereinafter mentioned, and the money required for various works under the several constructing Departments provided from Loan Fund under those respective Departments.

The programme for 1940-41, so far as it relates to expenditure from State Development Tax, involves an estimated expenditure of £1,139,929.

Since the inception of the Scheme on the 19th September, 1938, and until the 30th April, 1940, 8,049 men who had previously been in receipt of relief assistance had accepted full-time employment under the Special Employment Scheme. In order to complete the selection for such employment, it was necessary to call up 19,466 men, of whom 4,740 were found to have already received employment. The number who refused employment or failed to report was 6,161, representing 43.36 per cent. In making the selections, it was considered the most equitable method would be according to priority based on the number of

weeks during which relief assistance had been drawn over the three-year period preceding the 1st July, 1938, and where it was necessary to further determine the priority to take into consideration the relief assistance granted during the preceding three years.

Refusals to accept employment have been based upon domestic and family circumstances and the illness or incapacity of the person called up for selection.

The Government could only provide employment on works considered economical and necessary for this State, and this emphasises the difficulty of placing in employment large numbers of men who, for various reasons, refuse to accept work outside city areas.

Particulars of the selections of ex-relief men for work under this Scheme at the 30th April, 1940, were:—

—	Married.	Single.	Total.
Number of jobs allotted	4,435	1,488	5,923
Number of jobs filled	4,363	1,463	5,826
Number of jobs remaining unfilled	72	25	97
Number of replacements engaged	1,482	741	2,223
Number of men called up	14,991	4,475	19,466
Less number who were not eligible	420	96	516
Less number who were in employment	3,814	926	4,740
Number of unemployed called up	10,757	3,453	14,210
Number of men who accepted employment	5,845	2,204	8,049
Number of men who refused employment	3,296	825	4,121
Number of men who failed to report	1,616	424	2,040
Percentage of unemployed men called up who either refused employment or failed to report	Per cent. 45·66	Per cent. 36·17	Per cent. 43·36

It has already been mentioned that under the scheme employment on certain developmental works was restricted to men in receipt of relief assistance according to priority.

As the purpose of this method had been served by the calling-up of 19,466 men from the 17th September, 1938, up to 30th April, 1940, it was decided to abolish the scheme of special employment jobs with priority to relief workers, and that after that date the engagement of all labour would be conducted through State Labour Exchanges

irrespective of priority on relief; thus all eligible unemployed workers attending roll calls will now have an equal chance of selection, subject to priority of registration, irrespective of whether in receipt of ration relief, unemployment insurance, or otherwise.

The principle of the engagement of one single man to three married men was continued as a general policy.

With an effective programme of public works planned on an orderly basis, new proposals should bring about a return of unemployed to employment. The stimulus of productive work undertaken by the State must create in a degree a demand for commodities and contribute largely to absorption of unemployed by private undertakings.

INCOME STATE DEVELOPMENT TAX.

As from 1st January, 1939, the Government introduced "*The Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938*," which replaced the Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts.

The new Act provided for exemption from tax of incomes from employment not exceeding £211 Southern Division (Eastern District), £230 Southern Division (Western District), £225 Mackay Division, £237 Northern Division (Eastern District), and £256 Northern Division (Western District), and in respect of other classes of income up to £211 per annum.

The rate of £211 was prior to the 7th¹ August, 1939, the equivalent of the basic wage in the Southern Division (Eastern District) of the State. The rates shown in respect of the other divisions were the equivalent of the basic wage, plus parities applicable to such divisions prior to the 7th August, 1939.

It also provided for a reduction of 2d. in the £1 in the rates applicable to all other grades of income fixed by the repealed Acts which had already provided, as from the 1st

October, 1935, for a reduction of 1d. in £1 in all grades, plus an exemption up to £78 per annum subsequently increased to £84 and £89.

The following table shows a comparison of the rates of tax payable on the various income grades under the repealed Acts and the new Act:—

<i>"The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts, 1930 to 1935."</i>		<i>"The Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938."</i>	
Income Grades.	Rate of Tax.	Income Grades (Income from Employment).	Rate of Tax.
Not exceeding £89 per annum	Nil	Not exceeding £211 per annum, South-Eastern District	} Nil
		Not exceeding £225 per annum, Mackay Division	
		Not exceeding £230 per annum, South-Western District	
Exceeding £89 but not exceeding £115 ..	2d. in £1	Not exceeding £237 per annum, North-Eastern District	
		Not exceeding £256 per annum, North-Western District	
Exceeding £115 but not exceeding £227 ..	5d. in £1	Exceeding £211 but not exceeding £227, South-Eastern District ..	} 3d. in £1
		Exceeding £225 but not exceeding £227, Mackay Division	
		Exceeding £227 but not exceeding £499, South-Eastern District ..	} 6d. in £1
		Exceeding £227 but not exceeding £499, Mackay District	
		Exceeding £230 but not exceeding £499, South-Western District ..	
Exceeding £227 but not exceeding £499 ..	8d. in £1	Exceeding £237 but not exceeding £499, North-Eastern District ..	
		Exceeding £256 but not exceeding £499, North-Western District ..	
Exceeding £499	11d. in £1	Exceeding £499	9d. in £1

The estimated loss in revenue to the Government through the reductions and increased exemptions in the basic wage was £1,458,000.

Following the increase in the basic wage as from 7th August, 1939, "*The Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938*" was amended by "*The Income (State Development) Tax Act Amendment Act of 1939*" to provide for exemption from tax of incomes from employment not exceeding the new basic wage rate of £219 in the Southern Division (Eastern District) of the State and incomes from employment not exceeding the basic wage plus the applicable parities in the other divisions of the State.

The following table shows a comparison of the rates of tax payable on the various income grades under the repealed Acts and the new Act as from 7th August, 1939:—

<i>"The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts, 1930 to 1935."</i>		<i>"The Income (State Development) Tax Acts, 1938 to 1939."</i>	
Income Grades.	Rate of Tax.	Income Grades (Income from Employment).	Rate of Tax.
Not exceeding £89 per annum	Nil	Not exceeding £219 per annum, South-Eastern District	Nil
		Not exceeding £233 per annum, Mackay Division	
		Not exceeding £238 per annum, South-Western District	
Exceeding £89 but not exceeding £115	2d. in £1	Not exceeding £245 per annum, North-Eastern District	3d. in £1
		Not exceeding £264 per annum, North-Western District	
		Exceeding £219 but not exceeding £235, South-Eastern District	
Exceeding £115 but not exceeding £227	5d. in £1	Exceeding £233 but not exceeding £235, Mackay Division	6d. in £1
		Exceeding £235 but not exceeding £499, South-Eastern District	
		Exceeding £235 but not exceeding £499, Mackay Division	
Exceeding £227 but not exceeding £499	8d. in £1	Exceeding £238 but not exceeding £499, South-Western District	9d. in £1
		Exceeding £245 but not exceeding £499, North-Eastern District	
		Exceeding £264 but not exceeding £499, North-Western District	
Exceeding £499	11d. in £1	Exceeding £499	

DIRECTOR OF LABOUR.

(See Reports of the Director of Labour for Years ended 30th June, 1934, 30th June, 1935, 30th June, 1936, 30th June, 1937, 30th June, 1938, 30th June, 1939, and 30th June, 1940.)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF PERSONS SENT TO EMPLOYMENT THROUGH STATE LABOUR EXCHANGES 1926-27 TO 1939-40.

Period.				Government Employment.	Private Employment.	Total.
1926-27	..	..	..	5,557	4,972	10,529
1927-28	..	..	..	5,777	7,266	13,043
1928-29	..	..	..	5,443	6,694	12,137
1929-30	..	..	..	5,344	6,308	11,652
1930-31	..	..	..	12,451	7,305	19,756
1931-32	..	..	..	8,147	5,886	14,033
1932-33	..	..	..	16,633	8,376	25,009
1933-34	..	..	..	12,125	12,105	24,230
1934-35	..	..	..	18,528	12,269	30,797
1935-36	..	..	..	17,202	11,086	28,288
1936-37	..	..	..	14,965	9,469	24,434
1937-38	..	..	..	14,841	7,400	22,241
1938-39	..	..	..	20,452	7,472	27,924
1939-40	..	..	..	17,003	6,921	23,924

UNEMPLOYED WORKERS' INSURANCE ACTS.

Statistics.

1929-1940.

Year.				Receipts.	Disbursements.	Excess of Receipts over Disbursements.
				£	£	£
1929-30	..	..	..	490,568	517,781	-27,213
1930-31	..	..	..	453,439	517,293	-63,854
1931-32	..	..	..	411,867	385,105	26,762
1932-33	..	..	..	419,734	338,807	80,927
1933-34	..	..	..	443,308	359,763	83,545
1934-35	..	..	..	504,048	410,688	93,360
1935-36	..	..	..	530,552	479,658	50,894
1936-37	..	..	..	560,964	488,528	72,436
1937-38	..	..	..	593,038	505,791	87,247
1938-39	..	..	..	622,139	655,571	-33,432
1939-40	..	..	..	640,058	622,946	17,112

NOTE.—“ — ” indicates excess of disbursements over receipts.

Arrears of wages secured by industrial inspectors on behalf of employees during twelve months ended—

30th June, 1933— £6,853

30th June, 1934— £9,242

30th June, 1935—£11,999

30th June, 1936—£12,129

30th June, 1937—£11,913

30th June, 1938—£14,751

30th June, 1939—£16,226

30th June, 1940—£17,083

OFFICE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR-GENERAL OF PUBLIC WORKS.

“*The State Development and Public Works Organisation Act of 1938*” marked an original departure amongst Australian Governments towards the goal of economic planning. In its broadest terms this legislation provides for the improvement of the general economic welfare of the State by the institution of an orderly planned system of public works or other projects intended for the development of the State.

That this legislation is in harmony with world scientific opinion is evidenced by a resolution of the International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1937, which stated—

“In the absence of advanced planning, expenditure on public works tends to increase with prosperity and diminish during depression, thus aggravating the effect on the labour market of fluctuations in private employment. Hence it is desirable to time public works to reduce as far as possible industrial fluctuations, and this involves co-ordination of the methods by various authorities.”

The soundness of the principles introduced to Australia by this Queensland legislation is also recognised in the recent decision of the Australian Loan Council to appoint a Co-ordinator of Works for the purpose of undertaking for Australia as a whole some of the functions delegated to the State Co-ordinator-General of Works.

In legislation of this sort the necessity for amendment arises from time to time to meet changing conditions, although the fundamental principles remain untouched. The foundations of the existing social and administrative structure have been shaken by the present war, and the necessity has arisen for the modification of peace-time legislation to meet most efficiently the demands of war.

Hence during the last session of Parliament the original Act was amended and added to in such a way as to prepare for emergency action to meet emergency conditions—without infringement of those rights and liberties for which the present war is being waged.

Plan of Public Works.

Plans for public works for 1940-41 were received from all sources, and were systematically classified according to location. Conferences were then arranged with departmental and local body executives and committees, during which the merits of proposals were discussed and works graded into their relative order of urgency. Close liaison was maintained with the Bureau of Rural Development in matters having relation to rural progress. During these discussions the interchange of ideas and proposals for planned development in the future have been of great value, while the detection of avenues for co-ordination of effort has been of considerable importance.

Coincidentally with the classification of works according to location, their value was assessed in terms of manpower, and, by the grouping of works of various authorities to be carried out in one locality, the total amount of employment to be given in that locality during the year was appraised and correlated with the population and prevailing unemployment. By this means it was possible to assess with some degree of accuracy—subject to modification for special circumstances, such as the needs of defence—the equitable distribution of expenditure as required by the Act, and at the same time to plan any necessary adjustments during the year.

The resultant programme for the year has meant the allocation of available funds in such a fashion as to provide the maximum of work with a minimum expenditure on ration relief for the unemployed. At the same time it envisages expenditure on works and other projects in the most economical and productive directions, having regard to all circumstances.

It is estimated that the programme will provide for the employment of an average of 12,000 workers of all degrees of skill, compared with an average of slightly over 11,000 during the previous year.

It is calculated that assistance in cotton-growing, mining, and rural activities generally will be provided for a total of over 5,500 persons during 1940-41, compared with 4,200 in the previous year.

In addition to the State programme, it is anticipated that Commonwealth expenditure on defence works will result in employment of an average of 2,300, compared with 1,660 during the previous year.

The combined State and Commonwealth programmes, it is anticipated, will fully absorb the employable manpower of the State before the end of the financial year. It is hoped by special and vigorous measures to employ a proportion of seasonal labour during its period of idleness, and to place in lighter classes of employment numbers of those on the ration list who are unfit for heavy manual work.

Irrigation and Water Supply.

Investigations set in train previously have proceeded apace, with the result that one scheme involving the erection of a combined road bridge and weir over the Dawson River near Moura has actually been commenced. This structure, in addition to providing a river crossing on an important highway, will make water available for cotton and other crops.

In the Inglewood district funds have been provided to strengthen the base of a weir (being erected for the purpose of providing a town water supply) in order to permit the subsequent raising of the structure for general irrigation purposes—chiefly tobacco.

Investigations on the McIntyre Brook and Emerald Creek have progressed well, and it is expected that the construction stage will be reached during the year.

In the Callide Valley it has been found that underground waters offer the quickest means of supply for irrigation purposes, and funds have been provided for the sinking of bores and wells on selected sites. This work is well in hand.

Other investigations of irrigation projects are progressing satisfactorily, and positive results are expected shortly. Hydrological investigations on North Queensland rivers, notably the Herbert and the Burdekin, are well forward.

Development of the Cotton Industry.

Bound up with irrigation is the question of increasing Queensland's yield of cotton, both to satisfy the normal home market and to meet, as far as possible, the exigencies of the war situation. Accordingly, much attention has been given, through the co-operative efforts of the Bureau of Rural Development, the Department of Labour and Industry, the Department of Agriculture and Stock, the Queensland Cotton Board, and the Department of Irrigation, to the question of increasing the cotton yield per acre and extending as far as practicable the acreage under production, and these efforts are being intensified during the current year.

The measures being taken include advances to cotton-growers under the scheme inaugurated some years ago by the Department of Labour and Industry; a large-scale individual experiment in cotton-growing under irrigation in the Theodore area; the provision of irrigation plant on easy terms to approved farmers in suitable areas; the strengthening of technical staffs for advisory and experimental work, pest control, &c.

In all, the measures in hand are energetic and far reaching, and immeasurable benefits to the State must result from this concerted effort to intensify the production of cotton in the State.

Producer Gas and Charcoal.

The development of the use of producer gas and other substitute fuels has assumed increasing importance owing to the petrol rationing scheme, and the work in the State

has been co-ordinated through a representative expert committee. Manufacturers of producer gas plant have been given the opportunity of submitting their units for testing. At present road tests only are undertaken, but scrubber tests will be available shortly, and a laboratory has been built and is now being equipped to enable power tests to be undertaken.

With funds provided by the Government units have been purchased and fitted to Government vehicles, and careful records are being kept of their operation in service.

The Forestry Department is continuing its charcoal-burning experiments and is providing a valuable service to the public.

The public has been kept apprised of developments in producer gas and charcoal by means of Press articles, the radio and lectures, and by the periodic issue of bulletins.

Shipbuilding.

Every possible encouragement has been given to fostering the extension of the shipbuilding industry in Queensland. A shipbuilding yard has been established by the Government in Brisbane and is now in operation under lease to a firm of Brisbane engineers. The first ship—an oil tanker—has been launched, and the yards have enough business ahead to keep them fully occupied for some time to come. The organisation built up for the construction of the Story Bridge has been mobilised for this work, with the result that there was no loss of employment when the bridge was completed.

Artesian Water.

An expert committee has been established to plan and direct investigations into this important problem.

The committee is acting as a directive body during the carrying out of investigations by a trained staff and will provide for the final collection and presentation of results.

The objective is to ascertain the nature and structure of the Great Artesian Basin, especially from the point of view of its water contents, by a study of the geological, physical, and chemical aspects of the problem.

Geological and hydrological work is proceeding concurrently.

Defence Works.

The resources of the State's works departments have been placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Commonwealth when required for defence purposes. An advance of £280,000 by the Commonwealth for unemployment relief works of defence value was completely expended with valuable results in road and aerodrome improvements, camp construction, &c. The work was carried out largely by the Main Roads Commission in conjunction with Local Authorities, the Railway Department, the Public Estate Improvement Branch of the Lands Department, and the Department of Harbours and Marine.

The Main Roads Commission in conjunction with the roads departments of New South Wales and South Australia has completed, for the Commonwealth Government, an inland strategic road between Tennant Creek and Birdum in Central Australia.

The work has been executed in record time.

Numerous other works, chiefly on aerodromes and roads and at military camps, have been carried out by the State on requisition from the Commonwealth.

Co-ordinated Works in Brisbane.

The combined schemes described in the previous issue, involving the elimination of the Bowen Bridge road level crossing, the construction of the Boundary street approach to the proposed bridge over the Brisbane River between West End and St. Lucia, and the widening and canalisation of Breakfast Creek, are now all approaching completion.

The economies achieved by co-ordinating Bureau of Industry, Railway, and Brisbane City Council works in this way have been considerable, material for the large embankment required on the Bowen Bridge road being

obtained from excavation work being carried out concurrently in Boundary street and at Breakfast Creek, while administration costs have been considerably lessened and interchange of plant has added to the general savings in cost.

A committee has been established to examine the question of the abolition of the railway level crossings at Woolloongabba, and investigations are now proceeding into the question of the establishment of a number of sports areas on reclaimed lands in the metropolitan area for the purpose of providing facilities to implement the physical fitness campaign.

Flood Erosion, Burdekin River.

Following damage during cyclonic weather in North Queensland in the early months of 1940, a committee of engineers was set up to formulate a plan for remedial and protective works. A scheme was drawn up and, after acceptance by the Government, is now in progress.

This plan involves the construction of protective works in the form of timber bulkheads or minor levees at the breaches which occurred in the river banks and the reconsolidation of the banks by the planting of suitable vegetation.

Burdekin River Railway Bridge.

Another investigation by experts is proceeding into the question of whether the replacement of the present low-level railway bridge—subject to periodic interruption by flooding—by a high-level structure is either practical or economic. Many problems are involved in the investigation, which may take some time to complete.

Post War Development.

In conjunction with the Bureau of Industry, investigations are in hand into the question of planned development in North Queensland. The idea behind the investigations, which are yet in their preliminary stages, is the formulation of schemes for post war development in the North. A good deal of valuable groundwork has already been covered by the investigators.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

DEPARTMENT'S BUILDING ACTIVITIES.

The total volume of work carried out by the Department varies from year to year, mainly by reason of fluctuation in the amount of work carried out on behalf of other Government Departments. During the year 1939-40 a full programme of work was carried out, as evidenced by the following particulars of expenditure on buildings:—

From Revenue Fund—

Maintenance of Public Buildings £77,018

From Loan Fund—

New buildings, additions, &c. £356,334

Statement of Expenditure on Public Buildings.

PERIOD 1ST JULY, 1931, TO 30TH JUNE, 1940.

Year.	Expenditure from Revenue Fund.		Expenditure from Loan Fund.		Expenditure on Behalf of Other Departments and Institutions.		Total Expenditure.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1931-32 ..	63,043	1 11	57,198	13 1	96,230	5 2	216,472	0 2
1932-33 ..	54,683	12 4	210,508	18 11	110,004	10 10	375,197	2 1
1933-34 ..	54,439	11 9	321,610	2 11	59,847	17 8	435,897	12 4
1934-35 ..	66,311	4 4	474,902	9 7	153,849	5 8	695,062	19 7
1935-36 ..	63,539	5 1	448,498	15 0	158,718	8 11	670,756	9 0
1936-37 ..	85,000	0 0	340,998	0 7	150,149	9 7	576,147	10 2
1937-38 ..	83,787	12 9	363,600	5 3	200,415	10 9	647,803	8 9
1938-39 ..	83,907	0 0	342,387	0 0	169,132	17 3	595,426	17 3
1939-40 ..	77,017	14 11	356,334	4 7	52,733	2 11	486,085	2 5
Grand Total	631,729	3 1	2,916,038	9 11	1,151,081	8 9	4,698,849	1 9

The following comparative figures are of interest:—

Year.			Amount Allotted to Building Vote from Loan Funds.	Expenditure from Loan Funds.	Works Approved to be Carried out from Loan Funds.
			£	£	£
1928-29 .. ..	..	..	211,900	163,439	286,649
1929-30 .. ..	..	..	186,200	162,815	196,510
1930-31 .. ..	..	..	75,221	71,483	79,811
1931-32 .. ..	..	..	90,000	55,985	98,633
1932-33 .. ..	..	..	246,870	210,352	287,324
1933-34 .. ..	..	..	400,000	321,590	504,372
1934-35 .. ..	..	..	473,800	474,375	700,269
1935-36 .. ..	..	..	448,500	448,498	520,078
1936-37 .. ..	..	..	340,000	340,998	487,644
1937-38 .. ..	..	..	364,268	363,600	431,352
1938-39 .. ..	..	..	347,876	342,387	426,798
1939-40 .. ..	..	..	373,888	356,334	499,132

Preference to Queensland Material.

The policy of utilising to the fullest extent Queensland materials in origin and manufacture has been continued, thus conserving the best interests of the State.

Ground Improvements at State Schools.

Extensive ground improvements at State Schools were undertaken in former years under the Intermittent Relief Scheme. During the past year, further improvements to grounds were carried out under the special Full-Time Employment Scheme. These were mainly the completion of schemes previously commenced. The expenditure for the year under this head was £22,013.

Maintenance Work.

Repairs and painting of public buildings involves a recurring expenditure each year. The construction of numbers of buildings in brick offsets the increase in the amount of maintenance work, which would otherwise be involved by reason of the increase in the number of public buildings. Parliamentary appropriation for 1939-40 was fixed at £78,700, and the expenditure under this head was £77,018.

OTHER ACTIVITIES.

“ The Gas Acts, 1916 to 1933.”

The Government Gas Engineer and Chief Gas Examiner reports that the Gas Industry throughout Queensland has been very active. The larger Gas Companies report extensive additions to their reticulation systems.

The number of meters tested and stamped by the gas testing branch during the past five years was as follows:—

Year.	Tested and Stamped Correct.	Tested and Rejected as Incorrect.	Total Tested.	Rejections (per cent.).
1935-36	11,641	662	12,303	5.38
1936-37	12,112	768	12,880	5.9
1937-38	11,677	682	12,359	5.5
1938-39	14,762	857	15,619	5.4
1939-40	12,628	704	13,332	5.2

“ The Motor Spirit Vendors Acts, 1933 to 1934.”

These Acts are a practical expression of the policy of expanding economic activity within the State, and their purpose is to assist the manufacture of power alcohol. They were primarily designed to increase the production of power alcohol from molasses, a residual in sugar production, much of which formerly was wasted.

The Government's object in its unique legislation has been achieved to the extent that the production of power alcohol in Queensland approximates 1,300,000 gallons per annum, compared with little more than 100,000 gallons per annum ten years ago.

STATE ADVANCES CORPORATION.**WORKERS' DWELLINGS.****Funds.**

The funds provided for the operations of the Corporation in respect of Workers' Dwellings during the Financial year 1939-40 amounted to £321,389, being £260,000 from Loan Fund and £61,389 from Trust Fund.

Of the Trust Fund, the sum of £50,000 was raised by the sale of a debenture in pursuance of section 13 of “*The State Advances Acts, 1916 to 1934*,” to the Australian Mutual Provident Society; this debenture attracts interest at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum and is redeemable in fifteen (15) years by half-yearly instalments.

Applications.

Applications for the erection of new dwelling-houses were received from time to time during the Financial Year 1939-40, and, in the acceptance thereof, priority was extended to intending applicants in the order in which their names had been listed.

In order to serve the greatest number of cases, the special limitations, which operated during last Financial Year in respect of the maximum advance and the maximum cost of a dwelling-house, were continued during the Financial Year 1939-40, such being:—

Particulars of Division.	Maximum Advance.	Maximum Cost of Dwelling-house.
	£	£
No. 1 Division— Cities and approved towns in the area south of Rockhampton and east of an imaginary line drawn from Comet, Chinchilla, and Goondiwindi to the New South Wales border	550	700
No. 2 Division— Cities and approved towns not included in No. 1 Division	650	800

The larger maxima in respect of No. 2 Division were so fixed in order to provide for the greater cost of building in the Northern and outlying parts of the State.

The number of applications for advances dealt with was 592, of which 515 were approved for £272,850.

Of the applications approved 6 were dealt with under the provisions of section 15 (3A) of the Acts, whereby special assistance may be approved to an applicant who is, *inter alia*, married, with three or more children under sixteen years of age dependent upon him; applications approved to the 30th June, 1940, under this section totalled 35, for an advance value of £18,925.

In addition to the foregoing, there were 82 applications for transfer to new clients of dwellings subject to the mortgage to the Corporation, all of which were approved; in so far as the transferees are concerned, these are equivalent to new applications.

Further advances of £7,429 to effect improvements to dwelling-houses, erected in previous years, were approved where, in the opinion of the Corporation, the proposed work was urgent and necessary.

The total advances approved from the inception of advances for Workers' Dwellings in 1910 up to the 30th June, 1940, amount to £9,350,597, in respect of 21,160 applicants for the erection of new dwellings, and, also, in respect of a large number of applicants for improvements, &c., to dwellings already erected.

Advances.

The total sum advanced during the Financial Year 1939-40 amounted to £293,888, in respect of 522 completed dwellings and 150 dwellings under construction, and, also, in respect of improvements, &c., to certain dwellings erected in previous years.

Borrowers' Repayments.

Payments of borrowers' monthly instalments over the thirty years of operations, together with repayments in full by 10,039 borrowers, have reduced the total indebtedness of borrowers from £8,340,672 to £3,324,427 at the close of the year, in respect of 9,099 advances still current.

The payments of redemption amounted to £293,917 for the Financial Year under review, being the largest sum collected since the inauguration of the late Workers' Dwellings Board in 1910, and was the result of an abnormal number of repayments of advances in full.

By Order in Council, dated the 28th July, 1939, the rate of interest on all advances approved on and after that date was increased from 4 per cent. per annum to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum.

Monthly Repayment Instalments in Arrear.

The arrears of instalments (interest and redemption) at the 30th June last amounted to £36,590 in respect of 2,155 borrowers out of 9,099 borrowers on the books; of the borrowers in arrear, only 773 owe more than three monthly instalments, representing £32,703.

Dwellings in Possession.

Up to the 30th June, 1940, possession had been taken of 521 dwellings, of which 16 were possessed during the year under review, out of the 19,058 dwellings erected since the late Workers' Dwellings Board commenced operations in 1910.

Of the 521 dwellings possessed, the mortgagors were reinstated in 289 cases, and 158 were sold, leaving 74 (51 in the metropolis and 23 in the country) on hand at the 30th June last, all of which, with the exception of 2 situate in the metropolitan area, are tenanted at satisfactory rentals.

Losses Written Off.

The losses written off during the year ended 30th June last amounted to £683 4s. 11d., thus making the total losses (inclusive of interest) to that date £2,442 1s. 2d. in respect of 14 cases; this is a very satisfactory record over thirty years of operations, during which 19,058 dwellings have been erected, and £8,340,672 advanced in respect thereof, especially as £446 11s. resulted from the destruction of 2 properties by the flood and cyclone at Rockhampton in 1918.

WORKERS' HOMES.

Applications.

During the Financial Year just closed, 6 applications for the erection of Workers' Homes of an estimated cost of £3,200 were approved.

Applications were generally not entertained during the Financial Year just closed; of the applications lodged, all were in respect of country towns where there was an acute housing shortage, and where the security was considered sound.

The same policy was adopted in respect of applications for improvements to homes erected in previous years, as with Workers' Dwellings, and the amount approved therefor was £6,327.

There were 19 applications for transfer to new clients of homes subject to the unpaid balance of purchase money thereof, all of which were approved; in so far as each transferee is concerned, these are equivalent to new applications.

The total sum approved for the erection of homes, including improvements thereon, from the inception of operations in February, 1923, up to 30th June last, was £1,523,564 in respect of 2,651 successful applicants.

Expenditure on Homes Erected.

In respect of 2,294 completed homes, the total cost to the Corporation from the inception of the Workers' Homes Acts in February, 1923, up to the 30th June last, was £1,310,611, made up as follows:—Instalments paid to contractors, £1,294,801; fencing erected on land purchased, £4,274; interest capitalised, £11,536. For the same period the following further items in respect of homes were charged to Purchasers' Accounts:—Fire insurance premiums, £52,628; rent of land, £61,840; life insurance premiums, £181,497; repairs, £5,213; repainting, £50,783; miscellaneous charges, £13,984; purchase money of land (freeholding leases), £27,389. The total sum, referred to in this paragraph, charged to Purchasers' Accounts from the inception of operations in February, 1923, up to the 30th June, 1940, was £1,703,945.

Payments by Purchasers.

Payments of the prescribed 5 per cent. deposits on the capital costs of homes and improvements thereto as required by the Acts and payments of the monthly rents by purchasers have, for the eighteen (18) years of operations, reduced the total principal debt in respect of homes from £1,703,945 to £826,137 at the close of the year, of which £685,311 is in respect of 1,739 current accounts, £262 in respect of 8 purchasers of land under freeholding lease tenure, where the contract of sale of the home has been performed, and £140,564 in respect of 268 reverted homes, after allowing for the sum of £18,802 written off and £1,170 losses on realisation.

Rents amounting to £11,673, being 8.3 per cent. of the book value, were paid by tenants of reverted homes during the Financial Year under review, and maintenance expenses amounting to £2,879 were charged to working accounts of these homes, thereby leaving a surplus of £8,794.

Monthly Rent in Arrear.

Arrears of rent (interest and unpaid purchase money, &c.) owing by purchasers at the 30th June last in respect of 896 cases amounted to £29,043. The number of purchasers in arrear is 51.52 per cent., of whom 498 are more than three months in arrear, representing £27,330.

Reverted Homes.

Up to the 30th June, 1940, homes numbering 520, out of 2,294 homes erected since the commencement of the Act in February, 1923, have reverted to the Corporation; of this number 38 reverted to the Corporation during the year under review.

Of the 520 reverted homes, the purchasers were reinstated in 68 cases, 184 were either sold or paid off, leaving 268 on hand at the 30th June last, of which 181 are situate in the metropolis and 87 in the country; efforts are being made to find purchasers for such of these homes as are for sale, and also to secure tenants for six that are vacant, all of which are in the metropolitan area.

Losses Written Off.

The debts in respect of 17 of the 38 homes which had reverted to the Corporation during the Financial Year under review were adjusted in the light of the present-day valuations thereof, the amount written off the purchase money outstanding being £1,531 and interest £384.

In addition to the above, the debts in respect of those Reverted Homes, which were adjusted in previous Financial Years, were further reduced during the year under review by the appropriation of £2,524 from the profits for the year. This further reduction, representing 2 per cent. of the original adjusted debts on the said homes, was made to offset any obsolescence in respect thereof.

The total amount written off Reverted Homes as a result of the above policy to the 30th June last is £22,153 (interest £3,351 and purchase money outstanding £18,802).

It is anticipated, however, that a substantial portion of this amount will be recovered from the surplus of the rentals being received for such homes, after allowing for interest, maintenance costs, obsolescence, &c., and also from the surpluses on the sales of certain thereof.

Action was also taken to write off the losses which had been incurred in the realisation of four (4) reverted homes during the year. The amount written off in respect thereof was £230, thereby making the total losses on realisation of 20 homes £1,180 (interest £10 and purchase money outstanding £1,170).

The total sum written off, as aforesaid, to the 30th June last amounts to £23,333 (interest £3,361 and purchase money outstanding £19,972).

Reappraisement of Workers' Homes Perpetual Town Leases.

During the Financial Year under review, the reappraisement of the monthly rent for the second period of fifteen (15) years of 173 Workers' Homes Perpetual Town Leases was determined by the Land Court, thereby making a total of 207 dealt with to the 30th June last. The first reappraisement fell due during the Financial Year 1938-39.

The following is Court's decisions thereon:—

Decision.	Cases dealt with.		
	1938-39.	1939-40.	Total.
Rents increased	28	112	140
Rents reduced	1	14	15
Rents unaltered	5	47	52
	34	173	207

BUILDING REVIVAL SCHEME.

As the purpose for which the above Scheme was inaugurated in August, 1932—namely, to assist rehabilitate the building industry, which was very depressed consequent on the years of trade and industrial depression—has been achieved, activities thereunder have practically ceased.

During the Financial Year under review only 24 applications were dealt with, of which 17 were approved for £3,147.

A sum of £123 was also approved for extras on contracts completed during previous Financial Years.

The total advance instalments paid during the year amounted to £1,412.

The total amount advanced since the inception of the Scheme in August, 1932, up to 30th June last was £167,238 in respect of 1,509 borrowers; of this sum £166,977 was in respect of 1,507 contracts completed at the close of the Financial Year; the balance of £261 represents instalments paid at 30th June, 1940, on two contracts incomplete at that date.

Payments of borrowers' monthly instalments, together with repayments in full to release securities, have reduced the total indebtedness of 1,509 borrowers from £167,238 to £41,993 at the close of the year in respect of 559 accounts still current.

STATE HOUSING RELIEF.

During the Financial Year under review 58 applications were received from persons who, having been detrimentally affected by unemployment or other causes, sought a measure of relief to be afforded them under "*The State Housing Relief Acts, 1930 to 1934*," making a total of 4,978 applications received since the inception of the Act in December, 1930, and which were dealt with as follows:—

Scheme.	Lodged.	Approved.	Declined or Lapsed.	Under Considera- tion.	Accepted.
Workers' Dwellings ..	2,422	2,202	219	1	1,744
Workers' Homes ..	2,476	2,273	200	3	1,732
Discharged Soldiers' Dwellings ..	51	48	3	..	32
Flood and Cyclone Restoration ..	5	5	..	..	4
Building Revival Scheme	24	23	1	..	16
Total	4,978	4,551	423	4	3,528

In addition to the foregoing, general relief was afforded to all clients of the Corporation (except clients under "*The State Advances Corporation Buildings Improvement Act of 1932*"—Building Revival Scheme) as from the 1st January, 1935, by "*The State Advances Act and Other Acts Relief Amendment Act of 1934*."

The total amount of arrears funded under the aforementioned Acts to the 30th June last in respect of all schemes was £270,072, made up as follows:—Workers' Dwellings £134,630, Workers' Homes £130,770, Discharged Soldiers' Workers' Dwellings £4,184, Building Revival Scheme £384, and Flood and Cyclone Restoration £104.

GENERAL REMARKS.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE ON HOUSING DURING LAST NINE FINANCIAL YEARS.

Year.	Workers' Dwellings.	Workers' Homes.	Flood and Cyclone Restoration.	Discharged Soldiers' Dwellings.	Building Revival Scheme.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1931-32 ..	116,611	27,667	31	284	..	144,593
1932-33 ..	207,999	31,736	14	2,270	36,614	278,633
1933-34 ..	197,747	28,988	223	1,367	38,694	267,019
1934-35 ..	288,696	31,077	113	1,369	45,281	366,536
1935-36 ..	329,154	33,482	7	1,217	29,426	393,286
1936-37 ..	273,550	33,569	14	798	6,468	314,399
1937-38 ..	366,713	34,301	1	840	5,445	407,300
1938-39 ..	298,193	33,323	86	965	3,899	336,466
1939-40 ..	293,412	32,185	2	621	1,412	327,632

TOTAL HOUSING OPERATIONS FROM INCEPTION.

Scheme.	No. of Completed Houses and Contracts.	No. of Houses and Contracts Incomplete at 30th June, 1940.	Total Number.	Total Advances (including Further Advances) paid to 30th June, 1940.	Principal owing at 30th June, 1940.	No. of Open Accounts at 30th June, 1940.
				£	£	
Workers' Dwellings (from 1910) ..	19,058	150	19,208	8,340,672	3,324,427	9,099
Discharged Soldiers' Dwellings (from 1917) ..	612	..	612	242,260	61,879	204
Flood and Cyclone Restoration (from 1918) ..	44	..	44	14,063	788	7
Workers' Homes (from 1923) ..	2,294	4	2,298	†1,703,945	826,137	2,015
Building Revival Scheme (from August, 1932) ..	1,507	4	1,511	167,238	41,993	559
Total ..	23,515	158	*23,673	10,468,178	4,255,224	11,884

* This total includes 74 contracts (70 Workers' Dwellings, 2 Building Revival Scheme, and 2 Worker's Home) which have been let but on which no instalment of the advance approved has been paid

† Includes £386,243 charges to Purchasers' Accounts, and £11,610 capital and maintenance expenditure on Reverted Homes.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The year's operations show a surplus in respect of Workers' Dwellings of £1,182, and in respect of Workers' Homes £2,421, after making provision, in respect of both Schemes, for possible losses.

MAIN ROADS COMMISSION.

TABLE OF WORKS EXPENDITURE.

Item.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
	£	£	£	£	£
State Highways, Main, Developmental, Tourist, Secondary, and Mining Access Roads—					
Permanent Works ..	1,143,844	887,025	1,129,841	1,958,186	1,634,931
Maintenance ..	221,687	294,532	325,911	343,734	404,018
	£1,365,531	£1,181,557	£1,455,752	£2,301,920	£2,038,949

The receipts during 1939-40 again showed an improvement in relation to previous years. The following figures appear in illustration:—

—	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
	£	£	£	£	£
Motor Vehicle	616,485	651,733	704,854	819,267	908,351
Federal Aid	501,483	552,360	757,809	806,218	845,100
Tolls	19,264	22,134	23,037	25,116	25,777

The operations of the Commission during 1939-40 resulted in the direct employment of an average of over 4,700 men.

The total expenditure for the year 1939-40 amounted to £3,061,758, whilst a total length of 643.17 miles of improved road was opened for traffic in addition to 11,632 lineal feet of bridges.

At the end of the year a big programme, involving 841.54 miles of new works and 304.03 miles of stage construction, as well as 3,962 lineal feet of bridges, was in course of construction.

The total length of roads and bridges constructed from the inception of main roads operations to the 30th June, 1940, is 6,209 miles and 96,510 feet (over 18 miles), respectively.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS.

Further Summarised Statement of the Activities of the Department since the Advent of the Labour Government to the 31st December, 1940.

The Labour Government, on assuming office in June, 1932, at once set about putting into operation its land settlement policy, which was framed with a view to maintaining and increasing production from the lands of the State, and to making new land available to land-seekers under reasonable conditions.

In the period that has elapsed since the Government took office much has already been accomplished in these directions, and the systematic development of the policy has proceeded according to plan.

An important feature of the Department's activities is that many of the projects initiated have been designed to provide avenues for the absorption of large numbers of unemployed on useful and reproductive work.

In considering what has been, and is being, done by the present Government, it is necessary to remember that much good land of the State has already been alienated by past Governments.

For new land settlement the Department has available from time to time remote lands opened up by the construction of pioneer access roads, expiring holdings and resumptions from pastoral leases under statutory resumption rights, and subdivisions of parts of existing leaseholds which are surrendered to the Crown (the balance being granted to the lessees under stringent improvement conditions). The vast areas of reclaimed prickly-pear land have practically all now been reoccupied and brought into production.

The number of blocks taken up as selections, pastoral leases, &c., during the period under review, totals 8,582, but the total number of holdings held throughout the State is subject to reduction consequent upon the expiry, surrender, or forfeiture of existing leases, and the completion of the purchase of the old freeholding tenures.

The following is a brief résumé of the operations of the Department during the period the Government has been in office :—

Area Opened or Re-opened for Selection since Present Government took Office up to 31st December, 1940.

<i>Tenure.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Agricultural Farm	6,953
Agricultural Homestead	3,416
Perpetual Lease Selection	846,416
Prickly-pear Selection	352
Perpetual Lease Prickly-pear Selection	263,569
Prickly-pear Development Selection ..	11,976
Perpetual Lease Prickly-pear Develop- ment Selection	2,200,737
Grazing Homestead and Grazing Farm	*25,083,089
Development Grazing Selection	558,987
Prickly-pear Development Grazing Selection	7,732,839
Settlement Farm Lease	4,159
Total	36,712,493

* Includes 16,546,427 acres surrendered for reopening in connection with relief to North-Western grazing selectors.

Land Selected from 1st July, 1932, to 31st December, 1940.

	No.	Area in Acres.
Perpetual Lease Selections	2,176	642,809
Agricultural Farms	87	28,637
Agricultural Homesteads	22	3,675
Grazing Farms	*625	4,541,454
Grazing Homesteads	*1,089	18,788,633
Prickly-pear Development Grazing Farms ..	501	4,069,346
Prickly-pear Development Grazing Homesteads	138	2,436,353
Prickly-pear Selections	11	6,319
Perpetual Lease Prickly-pear Selections ..	189	153,146
Prickly-pear Development Selections	195	316,247
Perpetual Lease Prickly-pear Development Selections	1,079	1,864,904
Development Grazing Homesteads	10	259,936
Development Grazing Farms	18	125,596
Settlement Farm Leases	1	1,002
Total	6,141	33,238,057

* Includes 947 selections of 15,870,037 acres surrendered and reopened in connection with relief to North-West grazing selectors.

**Pastoral Tenures Acquired or Re-acquired from 1st July,
1932, to 31st December, 1940.**

— — — — —					No.	Area in Square Miles.
Pastoral Holdings	..	..	..	..	1,289	163,356 $\frac{1}{8}$
Prickly-pear Leases	..	..	..	..	15	189 $\frac{1}{16}$
Occupation Licenses	..	..	..	..	794	16,102 $\frac{9}{16}$
Forest Grazing Leases	..	..	..	..	343	2,904 $\frac{9}{16}$
Total	..	..	..	..	2,441	182,552 $\frac{5}{16}$

It will be seen from the above table that some lands have been selected under freeholding tenure. In these cases action was in process when the Government assumed office, and it was decided to give full effect to all contractual obligations of the previous Government.

Relief Concessions Granted.

The slump period rentals instituted in 1921 for the relief of the cattle industry were extended for a total period of fifteen years and finally terminated in 1936.

Under the special legislation provided under the wool relief scheme, and extended by the Government to 31st December, 1937, relief aggregating an amount of approximately £665,000 was afforded to sheep-grazing lessees. In pursuance of the policy of granting special relief to Crown tenants in districts suffering more severely than others from drought and other climatic conditions, the Government instituted a special scheme of relief for grazing selectors in North-West Queensland, in the Cloncurry, Hughenden, and Winton districts, as a result of which over 1,000 selectors will receive rental remissions aggregating approximately £13,270 per annum for a period of seven years, or a total of £92,900 over the whole period.

Departmental Revenue Increased.

To assist in the recovery of the land industries of the State from the world economic depression, and to counteract the very low prices obtained for wool, meat, sheep, cattle, and agricultural produce generally, various concessions were given by the Department on a great number of tenures to enable landholders to carry on.

Irrespective of the financial assistance granted by the Government to deserving tenants in the shape of rental and penalty reductions, writing-off of loan indebtedness and valuations, &c., and despite the continued existence of drought conditions throughout the main dairying districts, the recovery of better conditions throughout most of the grazing areas and by the wool industry generally is reflected in the improved financial position of the Department.

Whereas land revenue had shown a steady annual decrease from 1921, the decline was arrested when the Government took office, and during 1937 revenue reached the high figure of £1,542,000, which was the highest amount received since 1921—that is, for sixteen years.

Again, during 1938, 1939, and 1940 the revenue reached the high figures of £1,486,000, £1,472,000, and £1,540,000 respectively.

LAND FOR SETTLEMENT.

Resumptions from Pastoral Holdings for Closer Grazing Settlement.

Notices of resumption have issued in respect of portions of holdings suitable for closer settlement in the pastoral areas of the State. During the period of office of the present Government an area of 4,931,438 acres has been resumed from ninety-three pastoral holdings.

Additional area investigations have been conducted and are still being carried out in various parts of the State. Where these investigations have been finalised, the additional areas approved for small selectors in the neighbourhood have been surveyed from the resumptions and either opened for selection for the allottees or are in process of survey and opening.

The lessees of a number of pastoral holdings have surrendered parts of their holdings for settlement purposes in satisfaction of accruing resumption rights, or in consideration of new leases granted. An area of 521,620

acres came into the hands of the Crown by this means during the year 1940, and has been or will be dealt with for additional areas or new settlement.

The total area of which possession was obtained from pastoral lessees by resumption or surrender during 1940 was 907,460 acres.

Of this area, 480,926 acres have been absorbed by twenty-eight additional areas which have been granted under selection or pastoral lease tenure. Ten blocks, comprising the balance of the resumptions dealt with, were made available for public competition. The resumptions not yet dealt with will be made available for additional areas or public competition as circumstances permit.

During the year 1941, further areas will be available for additional areas.

Due to the outbreak of war and the restriction of finance to new selectors of grazing land, the opening of portions of sheep land for new grazing settlement has been temporarily suspended.

Additional Areas for Present Selectors.

During the period the present Government has been in office 847 blocks, with a total area of 4,729,059 acres, were opened for selection up to 31st December, 1940, as priority additional areas to small landholders in order to give them a reasonable living area.

THE RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

(Rural Development Loans.)

Scheme of Advances to Landholders.

During the early part of 1932 a scheme initiated by the Land Administration Board for the absorption of unemployed men on reproductive works on rural lands was put into operation by the Government. The scheme provided for advances to be made to country landholders for such work as ringbarking, scrubfalling, clearing, fencing, and the provision of water facilities and such other works as might be conducive to the increased productivity of these lands.

Moneys Provided by the Government.

Six separate funds were made available for this purpose, as follows:—

	£	Interest.
(1) From Commonwealth and State Fund for Relief of Unemployment	190,000	3 per cent.
(2) From State Funds ..	100,000	3 per cent.
(3) From State Funds ..	199,066	5 per cent. (but reduced to 4 per cent. from 1st January, 1935).
(4) From State Funds ..	162,838	4 per cent.
(5) From State Funds ..	19,000	4 per cent.
(6) From State Funds ..	18,000	4½ per cent.
From State Funds ..	15,000	4½ per cent.
	<hr/> £703,904	

Particulars of Rural Development Loans.

The following are the particulars of advances granted by the Department from the various funds:—

Total amount granted as effective loans to borrowers, £688,850.

Total number of applications for loans received by the Department, 7,660.

Total number of loans approved, 5,088.

Total number of effective loans after deducting cancellations and withdrawals, 3,960.

Total amount actually expended by borrowers to 31st December, 1940, £665,315.

Total number of unemployed men who have received employment under the scheme as at 31st December, 1940, 22,618.

Total number of loans that have been repaid in full since completion of work, 793, involving repayment of £80,079.

The following are the details of the advances approved:—

Nature of Work.	Number of Advances Granted.	Amount Advanced.	Average Amount of Advance.
		£	£
Ringbarking and Suckering	2,691	376,568	140
Scrubfalling	994	88,641	89
Clearing, Stumping, and Grubbing	480	40,919	85
Fencing	678	76,070	112
Water Improvements ..	727	100,083	138
Other Improvements ..	73	6,569	90
Total	5,643	688,850	122

Terms and Conditions of Advances.

In the case of the first two funds, the maximum term of any advance was fifteen years, during the first two years of which interest only is payable. In the case of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth funds, the maximum term of advance is twenty-five years, during the first five years of which interest only is payable. Every borrower is required to engage his labour from unemployed registered at Labour Bureaux, but he has the option of having his work effected by day labour or by contract. In no case must less than the basic wage be paid. He has also to supervise his work and provide shelter and utensils for his employees. Repayment of the loan is secured by mortgage over the property developed.

Method of Paying Advances.

One of the merits of the scheme is that the loan moneys are not paid to the landowners but are distributed direct to the workers.

The borrower issues a certificate (in the form prescribed) defining the work done and the amount earned by the contractor or workmen. The Land Agents, on receipt, pay the money direct to the contractor or workmen. This system proves very expeditious, affords opportunity of careful scrutiny and inquiry, and works throughout the State most smoothly and efficiently.

Inspection of Work Effected.

Land Commissioners have had the great bulk of the jobs inspected. In the great majority of cases the reports disclose: The money has been carefully and effectively expended; landholders and workers have alike been satisfied; little labour difficulty has occurred.

Many thousands of acres, formerly idle, have been brought to production.

Material Benefit from the Scheme.

The advantages of the scheme may be summarised as follows:—

- (1) The unemployed are dispersed throughout the country in useful reproductive work, such as ringbarking, scrubfalling, cultivation, &c., instead of being concentrated in the cities.
- (2) Engaged in rural occupations, many of them or members of their families will develop a rural sense and become seekers after land from which in future they will derive their livelihood.
- (3) The individual landholder and the State get the benefit of the increased development and production which result from the work being done.
- (4) The loans are secured by mortgage on the property being developed and will be repaid to the Crown over a period of years.

Scheme Still in Operation.

For the current financial year ending on 30th June, 1941, the Government has made available for the purposes of those loans the sum of £15,000.

PRICKLY-PEAR ADMINISTRATION.

The position with regard to the control of the prickly-pear pest remains satisfactory. The work of the pear-destroying insects is such that landholders are called upon for very little expenditure in poisoning. The tree pears in Central Queensland and tiger pear in the South-West have

been the chief objects of expenditure, but the larvæ of a large beetle in the case of the former and special strains of the cochineal insect in both cases are giving very effective assistance in destruction and control.

The Biological section, formerly under the control of the Commonwealth Prickly-pear Board, is continuing its work with respect to pear-destroying insects and research in regard to burrs and other pastoral weed problems.

The development of the lands reclaimed from pear is proceeding very satisfactorily. The amount of improvement work which selectors had to undertake under the terms on which the land was made available has been largely exceeded in most cases and former dreary wastes of pear-infested brigalow scrub are now prosperous dairy farms, general farms, or well-improved grazing properties assisting the development of thriving townships.

The greater part of this work has been financed by loans from this Department under "*The Income (Unemployment Relief) Tax Acts, 1930 to 1935,*" and "*The Income (State Development) Tax Act of 1938.*"

PUBLIC ESTATE IMPROVEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES.

1939-1940 (both inclusive).

Roads (including bridges) and other works were carried out from the following funds:—

Loan—Land Development.

Loan—Commonwealth/State Scheme for Relief of Unemployment.

Trust—Harvesting and Marketing Unemployment Relief Fund.

State Development and Public Works Act—
Special Employment Works Fund.

Revenue—Ration Relief.

1. *Coolangatta (Kirra Reclamation)*.—These works are now complete. Some 85,000 cubic yards of filling and 22,500 yards of top-dressing have been used to complete the three sections. Ninety chains of bitumen-sealed roads

were constructed, giving access to eighty new Crown allotments, and a parking and camping area of 13 acres, which were levelled off and top-dressed.

Coolangatta Aerodrome was constructed for the Commonwealth Works Department.

These two works, over a period of five years, have employed an average of twenty-five men.

2. *Amity-Point Lookout Road and Amity-Blue Lake Road, Stradbroke Island*.—The Amity-Point Lookout Road and the Amity-Blue Lake Road are both complete, the former being $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and the latter 13 miles. The former gives access to Crown allotments at Point Lookout, while the Blue Lake Road traverses the crest of a range through the Island, providing a scenic approach to a beautiful lake. The number of men employed was sixteen. This work was completed in 1938.

3. *Broadbeach Lands*.—One hundred and eighty-four chains of bitumen-sealed and metal roads, giving access to town allotments, reserve, and esplanade, were constructed, and levelling effected, giving employment to an average of twenty men.

4. *Sandgate Reclamation*.—Five hundred and thirty-three thousand cubic yards of filling have been placed to date, and 110 chains of bitumen-sealed and metal roads constructed, giving access to some 250 allotments. Fifty-seven chains of sea-wall are now complete, and 16 acres have been filled in for esplanade and reserve purposes. An average of fifty men have been employed for four years.

5. *Gatton College*.—Over $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of bitumen-sealed and metal road work was constructed in the College grounds, and other improvements were effected. An average of ten men were employed.

6. *Enoggera Forestry Roads*.—About $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road access to timber lands have been completed. Work on a further $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles of road is nearing completion. An average of twenty-five men have been employed.

7. *Chinchilla Area Works*.—One hundred and eighty-one miles of road work has been completed, giving access to practically the whole of the settled lands. The cost was borne by the Government and the Local Authority. Employment was found for an average of twenty-five men.

8. *Hannaford-Southwood Road*.—This road was 30½ miles long. Construction gave employment to forty men.

9. *Wandoan Area Works*.—In this area 112 miles of road have been cleared, 90 miles formed, and five bridges constructed. An average of forty men are employed.

10. *Goondiwindi Area*.—These works have been completed, together with a further section of road extending towards the Weir River, giving a total of 81 miles all told, and a number of reinforced concrete crossings. These concrete crossings are forming dams, and in one case the water has been backed up for a distance of 3½ miles, thus forming a good supply in dry seasons. Twenty-five men were employed on the works.

11. *Mundubbera-Monogorilby*.—This road was completed (1938-39) and handed over to the Mundubbera Shire Council.

12. *Callide Valley Works*.—Between 1932 and 1938 further works were effected at the expense of the Government and the Banana Shire Council, giving employment to twenty-seven men.

13. *Baralaba Area*.—An average of twenty-five men have been employed in the construction of 112 miles of road access to farming lands. Work is still proceeding.

14. *Bulburin-Many Peaks Forestry Road*.—About 7½ miles of roads to timber lands are being constructed. The work, which is nearing completion, has given employment to an average of thirty men.

15. *Koumala-Hatfield Gap*.—Koumala has been linked to the Clermont-Sarina Road by a road through Hatfield Gap. This work gave employment to thirty men.

16. *Funnel Creek Roads*.—Construction of 17 miles of roads giving access to dairying lands is proceeding, employing an average of twenty men.

17. *Eungella and Dalrymple Heights Area*.—These roadworks, covering a length of about 67 miles of access to farm and timber lands, are proceeding. An average of forty men are employed.

18. *O'Connell River Road*.—This road was completed and handed over to the Pioneer Shire Council in 1938.

19. *Mount Ossa-Seaforth*.—This road was completed and handed over to the Pioneer Shire Council in 1938.

20. *Townsville Reclamation*.—Reclamation of about 50 acres of tidal salt pan for suburban allotments is proceeding. The work includes drainage, construction of a sea-wall, and streets. At the present time, 168,000 cubic yards of filling (including top-dressing) have been placed. About fifty-five new allotments will be available as a result of this work. Employment has been given to an average of thirty-five men.

21. *Hughenden-Lynd Road*.—Employment is being given to an average of thirty men, constructing 155½ miles of road, of which 50 have been completed. This road will connect the Central-West with the Atherton Tableland and the coast.

22. *Kirrama Range Road, Cardwell*.—Seven miles of this road have been completed, and work on the balance (7½ miles) is well advanced. The road is being used for timber haulage. An average of 130 men have been employed.

23. *Tully-Jarra Creek*.—Five miles of this road have been completed, and it is now in progress across Jarra Creek. The bridge across Jarra Creek is now being constructed. Average number of men employed, twenty-five.

24. *Granadilla Areas 1 and 2*.—Fifteen miles of road construction are just about complete and six bridges have been built in this area. Up to thirty-six men were employed. The roads tap large quantities of timber and open up areas for selection.

25. *Utchee Creek Roads*.—Roads Nos. 1 and 3 have been completed and handed over to the Sub-Department of Forestry, and large quantities of timber are now being

hauled out of this area. Road 2, Mena Creek, is nearing completion. Average number of men employed, thirty. The total length of road construction will be $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

26. *Mourilyan Harbour Road*.—This road is being constructed for the Johnstone Shire Council from Loan and Subsidy funds and is well under way. Some thirty men are being employed.

27. *Flying Fish Point*.—A road is being constructed to open up allotments at the town of Mulgrave, Flying Fish Point. Some thirteen men are being employed.

28. *Silkwood Area*.—Nineteen and a-half miles of roads and a bridge over Liverpool Creek have been constructed, giving access to selections in this area. An average of forty men were employed.

29. *Murdering Point*.—These works consisted of 4 miles of road construction, giving access to selections and seaside resort, and employing twelve men.

30. *Japoon No. 2 Area*.—Twenty men were employed on these works, which provided two bridges and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles of road construction, giving access to the mill and through road to the selectors.

31. *Mourilyan Area Road to Etty Bay*.—Approximately 10 miles of road construction, giving access to selectors and seaside allotments. Number of men employed, forty.

32. *West Palmerston*.—Thirteen miles of roads for timber removal purposes, and ultimately for access to Crown lands for selection. Fourteen men were employed.

33. *East Palmerston*.—Fourteen miles of reconditioning and improving old access roads. An average of ten men employed and work is still proceeding.

34. *Maalan Area*.—Six and a-half miles constructed for removal of timber; will later serve as access to Crown selections. Some twenty-five men were employed.

35. *Woopen Creek*.—About $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles road construction to give all-weather access to selections. These works are now complete. About thirty men were employed.

36. *Mount Garnet-Lynd*.—One hundred and thirteen and a-half miles of road completed. Of this, some 40 miles have been reconditioned for Main Roads Commission as part of the Northern Defence Road. Work is still proceeding and thirty-four men are employed.

37. *Cairns Reclamation*.—The reclaiming of approximately 180 acres of a mangrove tidal swamp and low-lying land is still proceeding. To date, some 237,000 cubic yards of filling have been placed. An average of forty men are employed.

38. *Kuranda-Black Mountain Forestry Road*.—Eight and a-quarter miles of this road have been completed, and it is now in progress to the 10-miles peg. Large quantities of timber are being hauled on this road. Up to thirty-five men are employed on this road and the Kuranda-Mareeba M.R.C. Road (*see* 39).

39. *Kuranda-Mareeba M.R.C.*—This road is being constructed by P.E.I. Two sections are now complete and the third section is under way.

40. *Julatten Area Works*.—Eleven miles of access road were constructed, opening new scrub areas. Fifty men were employed. These works are complete.

41. *Julatten-Euluma Creek Main Road*.—These works are complete, and consist of 5 miles of access roads to the railway for selectors. The men and staff were transferred from Julatten Area Works (item 40 above).

42. *Danbulla Forestry Roads*.—Some 16 miles of road construction, giving access to timber lands. The work is still proceeding. Average number of men employed, thirty-five.

43. *Boonjee Area*.—Approximately 2 miles 48 chains of access road to new areas, also a short section of main road. These works, which employ twenty men, are still proceeding.

44. *Tolga-Atherton*.—A bitumen road from Tolga to Atherton, 4 miles in length, was completed for the Atherton Shire.

45. *Coen Aerodrome*.—P.E.I. is constructing for the Co-ordinator-General, on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, an aerodrome, 14 miles north of Coen. No. 1 Runway is cleared and is now being graded. Average number of men employed, forty-five.

46. *Julatten-Cassowary Valley Road*.—P.E.I. carried out a couple of miles of construction on Julatten-Cassowary Valley Road. This road will now be completed under section 19 of the Main Roads Acts.

Miscellaneous.—The following jobs are to be carried out under section 19 on behalf of the Co-ordinator-General:—

Tara Shire—Bullock Head Road.

Murilla Shire—Road ABD.

Road in the Bendemere Shire from Jackson towards the Condamine Highway.

Roads in Bungil Shire, East and West from Gunnewin.

The surveys for the abovementioned roads were carried out by P.E.I. for the Co-ordinator-General.

Also under section 19, a start will be made on the Julatten-Cassowary Valley Road from the Mossman end. The survey of this road was also completed.

Other surveys carried out under section 19 were—

Blue Mountain Road.

' South Bolingbroke Road.

P.E.I. have carried out the following surveys:—

Extension of Roads B and C, Danbulla, to the top of the Tinaroo Range.

Roads in the Boonjee Area.

Kuranda-Cook Highway towards Cairns for M.R.C.

Kuranda-Julatten, via Black Mountain.

Extension of Kirrama Range Road towards Tully Falls.

Roads in Tully-Jarra Area—still in progress.

Roads in Granadilla Area—now complete.

Utchee Creek Area—Roads 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Japoon Area—Roads 1 and 4.

Funnel Creek Area.

Wandoan Area.

Hughenden-Lynd Road.

P.E.I. surveys under way—

Proposed reclamation—Mackay.

There are now only three survey parties on P.E.I. roads.

FORESTRY ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Steps taken by the Government shortly after its accession to office in 1932 to rehabilitate the timber industry met with marked success.

The following table illustrates the progressive improvement each year since 1930-31:—

TOTAL CUT OF LOGS FROM CROWN FORESTS.

Year.	Cut.
1930-31	35,000,000 superficial feet.
1931-32	39,000,000 superficial feet.
1932-33	60,000,000 superficial feet.
1933-34	81,000,000 superficial feet.
1934-35	143,000,000 superficial feet.
1935-36	148,000,000 superficial feet.
1936-37	162,000,000 superficial feet.
1937-38	196,000,000 superficial feet.
1938-39	186,000,000 superficial feet.
1939-40	212,000,000 superficial feet.

Six months ended

31st Dec., 1940 (est.) 122,000,000 superficial feet.

It will be seen that the cut for 1939-40 is over six times greater than in 1930-31.

While this increase in the log cut from Crown lands is in a measure due to the diminishing supplies from private lands, the figures nevertheless give an index to the improvement in the industry in recent years.

The Crown cut of hoop and bunya pine—the principal milling timbers—increased from 22,100,000 superficial feet in 1930-31 to 138,000,000 superficial feet in 1939-40. For six months ended 31st December, 1940, the cut was 80,000,000 superficial feet.

Effect of War.

With the outbreak of war, Queensland was called upon to meet the softwood deficiency of other States occasioned by the serious reduction in import of softwoods from overseas.

Steps were taken to increase the softwood output, with the result that Queensland's timber industry not only maintained this State's timber requirements but also exported considerable quantities of sawn and plied hoop, bunya, and kauri pine to the other States.

The whole of Australia's butter export is now encased in Queensland hoop pine.

7,313,000 square feet of plywood was exported to England during 1939-40, whilst plywood for the manufacture of 85,000 tea and coconut chests was exported to the East, and orders for further tea and rubber chests were on hand. This was all new business, replacing part of supplies previously obtained from the Baltic countries.

Increased Revenue.

Although prices of Crown timbers have been reduced, timber revenue has shown a marked increase, as set out in the following table:—

				£
Year 1930-31	..	..	..	92,950
Year 1931-32	..	..	..	78,155
Year 1932-33	..	..	..	144,805
Year 1933-34	..	..	..	166,878
Year 1934-35	..	..	..	307,776
Year 1935-36	..	..	..	302,777
Year 1936-37	..	..	..	323,548
Year 1937-38	..	..	..	375,491
Year 1938-39	..	..	..	370,470
Year 1939-40	..	..	..	397,652
Six months ended 31st Dec.,				
1940	..	..	..	229,487

The Plywood and Veneer Industry.

The Veneer and Plywood Board, which was constituted in 1934 by the Government in the first place for twelve months to organise and control the industry, has been extended for a further three years until May, 1942. No petition was received for a poll to be taken as regards such extension.

The total production of veneer and plywood during 1939-40, including the output of mills in Northern Queensland, was

Logs treated—25,944,000 superficial feet, producing
81,334,000 square feet of plywood $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch basis,
and 12,739,000 square feet of veneers $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch
basis.

Sawmills Licensing Act.

During the year 1936 "*The Sawmills Licensing Act of 1936*" was passed, and at 30th June, 1940, there were 591 licensed mills current.

The purpose of this Bill is the stabilisation of the saw-milling, veneer, and plywood industries, and the well-being of the workers engaged therein.

Constructional Timbers.

Operations on constructional timbers during the year 1939-40 have been exceptionally brisk on the better-class timbers, such as girders, piles, and headstocks.

Departmentally arranged contracts resulted in the following major deliveries:—

Specification.	Quantity.
Sleepers	224,048 pieces
Crossings	77,070 superficial feet
Transoms	170,191 superficial feet
Bridge Timbers	113,647 lineal feet

The year's operations were marked by a £22,000 order from the Falmouth Dock and Engineering Company, England, for long-length turpentine piles, squared girders, and decking.

Reforestation Operations.

Realising the necessity for providing for the future timber needs of the State, the Government decided to undertake a much more progressive programme of reforestation. The following table shows the increasing amounts expended on this phase of forestry work:—

	£
Year 1930-31	40,736
Year 1931-32	42,346
Year 1932-33	52,545
Year 1933-34	70,000
Year 1934-35	83,167
Year 1935-36	101,222
Year 1936-37	94,902
Year 1937-38	118,437
Year 1938-39	281,755
Year 1939-40	276,677

The past year's figures (1939-40) of work carried out shows what is now being done in this direction.

Area planted during season	3,953 acres
Area of cypress pine and hardwood intensively treated	70,750 acres
Firelines constructed	384 miles
Firelines maintained	1,100 miles
Plantations pruned	1,903 acres

The total area of plantations at 30th June, 1940, reached 25,972 acres, whilst the area of cypress pine and hardwood forests treated and improved at the same date was 369,470 acres.

Twenty-one nurseries were in production at the 30th June, 1940, carrying a total of 5,143,000 trees.

These increased operations have meant increased employment, and during 1939-40 work was provided constantly for almost 1,200 men.

Forest Estate.

The Government has kept in mind the need for increasing the forest estate of Queensland.

The area of reservations at 31st December, 1940, was as follows:—

State Forests	..	..	..	3,181,094 acres
Timber Reserves	..	..	..	3,225,198 acres
National Parks	..	..	..	541,876 acres
				<hr/>
				6,948,168 acres

This is the largest area yet held under such reservations.

National Parks.

Prior to the advent of the present Labour Government, the conscious development of these areas, set aside for the education, recreation, enjoyment, and health restoration of the people, had been almost completely neglected. In 1936-37 the Government set about rectifying this state of affairs, and funds were allocated for expenditure by the Forestry Sub-Department in National Parks development. Up to 30th June, 1940, £38,905 had been spent on this work, the greater part being in the eminently practical direction of constructing easy, graded walking tracks to scenic spots, and making them accessible to all instead of, as previously, only to persons in vigorous health. These tracks have already won the approbation of thousands of visitors to the parks, and it is certain have materially contributed to the health and well-being of many.

IRRIGATION, WATER SUPPLY, AND SEWERAGE OPERATIONS TO 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

During the preceding twelve months the important works carried out by this Department have increased in number. The carrying-through of proposals is at the discretion of the councils concerned, attended to either by the council's own engineer, a consulting engineer appointed for the purpose, or by this Department. In any case, the Department's approval must be obtained for the designs, plans, specifications, and estimates before the installation of the scheme is proceeded with. The acceptance of tenders and carrying-out of the work is also subject to the Department's supervision. In the case of works, constructed and entirely supervised by the Department, the local authority concerned

is charged only the actual cost of surveys, preparation of plans, estimates, &c., and supervision, which in respect of any work, excluding surveys and inspection of materials, does not exceed 4 per cent. on the completed cost of the work, inclusive of the salary of the Departmental supervising officer.

Loans and Subsidies.

Approved local authority water supply and sewerage works, also stock route watering projects, are financed by the Government on a loan-subsidy basis, the loan being repayable over a period of from twenty to thirty years at 5 per cent. interest, and the subsidy made available as a grant free of interest or taking the form of payment by the Government for a period of fifteen years of one-fifth of the annual interest and redemption on the loan. In some cases, with the approval of the Government, loans have been obtained from financial institutions at a rate of interest, the maximum of which is fixed by the Commonwealth Treasurer. These loans are subsidised by the State Government in the same manner as State Treasury Loans.

Labour Conditions.

Contracts may be let for any sections of the work, but any labour required must be engaged by the contractor from the unemployed labour registered at the State Labour Bureau, except in respect of such skilled labour as may be agreed upon between the Director of Labour and local Labour Agent and the contractor. Wages, hours, and conditions of employment in accordance with Arbitration awards must be observed.

Material, Freights, &c.

All equipment and material utilised in the execution of the work must, whenever possible, be manufactured in the State of Queensland.

In transport of all goods, materials, and equipment under any contract, preference must be given to the Queensland Railways where the freight costs do not exceed other methods of transport.

Town Water Supply Schemes.

Forty-five major town water supply schemes have been completed as at 31st December, 1940, and approximately 1,262 men were employed thereon at that date. Investigations or designs for, or the construction of a further thirty-eight schemes are in progress.

Included among the principal town water supply schemes are the following:—

Name.	Loan.	Subsidy.
	£	£
Amberley	2,275 (From State Govt. Insurance Office, also £2,375 from Commonwealth Govt).	100
Augathella and Morven	11,807	2,083
Babinda	6,827	6,827
Barcaldine	11,375	11,375
Bowen	19,753	9,537
Bundaberg—New Reservoir and Improve- ments	22,335 (From Common- wealth Savings Bank).	3,665
Cairns—Extensions	13,250	13,250
Camooowal	3,358	1,680
Charleville—Extensions	2,520 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	..
Childers	8,000	4,000
Childers—House Meters	1,890 (From Provi- dent Fund of National Bank of Australia).	*
Coolangatta—Nerang	44,385	44,385
Coolangatta—New Reservoir	3,752 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	*
Cunnamulla—Improvements	2,297 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	233
Dalby	17,000	17,000
Gatton	10,482	10,482
Gayndah	11,333 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	5,666
Gilliat	1,209	1,208
Goondiwindi	5,800 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	2,400
Gordonvale	9,544	9,544

Name.	Loan.	Subsidy.
	£	£
Gympie—New Pumps and Extensions ..	10,805 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	*
Herberton	4,792	2,396
Hughenden—Relaying Reticulation Mains	6,667	3,333
Ingham	24,500	12,350
Ingham—Extensions	3,030	*
Inglewood	9,894 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	4,947
Inglewood—Raising Weir .. .. .	..	3,000 (Grant from Dept. Labour and Industry).
Innisfail	24,743	24,743
Innisfail—Extensions	4,604	376
Ipswich	40,000 (From A.M.P. Society).	9,675
Ipswich—Extensions	10,000	10,000
Kingaroy	25,500	25,500
Longreach	24,500 (From A.M.P. Society).	24,500
Mackay—Extensions and Improvements	18,666 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	9,334
Mackay—Elevated Tank, Treatments Works, and New Pumps	24,000	*
Mareeba—Extensions	3,326	294
Maryborough—Extensions to Mains and Elevated R.C. Tank	50,000 (From A.M.P. Society).	3,863
Mirriwinni	1,984	1,984
Mossman	11,098	4,113
Murgon	16,745 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	4,255
Mount Isa	9,868	9,190
Redcliffe	81,000 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	10,500
Redlynch	9,435	8,585
Rockhampton—New Reservoir	10,176	10,176
Rockhampton—Part of Expansion Scheme	4,650 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	..
Rockhampton—Rising Main, Yaamba to Alligator Creek	41,155 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	*
Rockhampton—Improvements, Mount Charlton Treatment Works	9,362	9,362
Roma—Improvements	6,252	*
Sarina	7,382	7,382

Name:	Loan.	Subsidy.
	£	£
Southport—Extensions	8,487 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	4,667
Southport—Reservoir	8,600 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	*
Talwood	2,749	1,375
Texas	8,667 (From State Govt. Insurance Office).	4,333
Toowoomba—Cooby Creek Scheme ..	177,175 (From A.M.P. Society).	177,175
Townsville—New 15-inch Rising Main ..	28,000 (From Common- wealth Savings Bank).	..
Tully	10,458	10,032
Tully—Replacing Defective Mains ..	6,587	3,763
Warwick—New Reservoir ..	9,000	9,000
Windorah	1,930	965
Winton	8,850	8,850

* State Government Subsidy equals one-fifth Interest and Redemption for 15 years.

Sewerage Schemes.

The total number of sewerage schemes for which preliminary investigations have been made or proposed up to 31st December, 1940, was forty-one.

Working plans have been submitted and approved for portions of the schemes at Bundaberg, Goondiwindi, Ipswich, Mackay, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Townsville, Warwick, and Charleville.

Investigations have been made for sewerage schemes for Cairns, Sarina, Burleigh Heads, Coolangatta, Longreach, Southport, Thursday Island, Kilcoy (Hospital only), Tully, Richmond, Mount Isa, Mitchell, and Innisfail.

The following schemes have been completed and are in operation:—

Name.	Loan.	Subsidy.
	£	£
Cunnamulla	25,286	25,286
Quilpie	20,632	16,365

The following schemes are under construction with completed parts in operation:—

Name.	Loan.	Subsidy.
	£	£
Rockhampton	305,500	305,500
Townsville	292,500	292,500
Bundaberg	172,000	160,000
Maryborough	165,000	162,000
Toowoomba—Extensions to Existing Schemes	60,000	..

The following schemes are under construction:—

Name.	Loan.	Subsidy.
	£	£
Ipswich	269,626	269,626
Warwick	95,000	88,000
Mackay—Extensions to Existing Scheme	50,000	50,000
Charleville	47,100	47,100
Goondiwindi	44,000	22,000

In addition three small schemes have been completed at Monto, Tully, and Cherbourg.

Artesian Boring and Stock Route Watering.

Following is a statement of works completed and in progress at the 31st December, 1940, in connection with the Government's scheme for the provision of water facilities:—

—	Number Completed.	Number in Progress.	Number for which Contracts have been Let.
Bores	48	1	..
Raised Earth Tanks	34	..	3
G.I. Tanks	16	..	..
Excavated Tanks ..	15	..	3
Lifting Appliances..	40	1	1

The scheme comprises facilities on the following Main Trunk Stock Routes:—

- (1) *Far Western Main Trunk Route.*—From Quilpie, via Eromanga, Windorah, Canterbury, Morney, Currawilla, Palparara, Davenport Downs, Diamantina Lakes, Springvale, Boulia, Herbert Downs, Carrandotta, Urandangie, Lake Nash, Camooweal, to Burketown.

- (2) *Mid-Western Main Trunk Route*.—From Charleville, via Augathella, Tambo, Minnie Downs, Ravensbourne, Malverton, Isis Downs, Isisford, Arrilalah, Maneroo, Winton, Kynuna, Julia Creek, Sedan Dip, Vena Park, to Normanton.
- (3) *Near Western Main Trunk Route*.—From Clermont, via Bulliwallah, Mirtna, Natal Downs, Longton, Pentland, Oakvale, Lolworth, Cargoon, Wandovale, Pandanus Creek, The Lynd, Carpentaria Downs, to Einasleigh.
- (4) From Croydon, via Claraville and Yapper River, to Vena Park. (This forms a connecting link between the Near Western and Mid-Western Trunks.)
- (5) From Hughenden, via Tangorin, Muttaborra, Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, to the intersection of the Mid-Western Trunk.
- (6) From Urandangie to Dajarra. (Connection to rail head.)
- (7) From Boulia to Winton. (Connection to rail head.)
- (8) From Windorah to Longreach, via Jundah, Stonehenge, and Arrilalah.

In addition to the above, dealt with under the Government scheme, a number of works have been carried out or are in various stages of progress for the following Shire Councils, viz.:—Aramac, Balonne, Barcaldine, Barkly Tableland, Barcoo, Bauhinia, Belyando, Bendemere, Blackall, Booringa, Boulia, Bulloo, Bungil, Carpentaria, Chinchilla, Cloncurry, Dalrymple, Diamantina, Emerald, Flinders, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Jericho, Landsborough, Livingstone, Longreach, Milmerran, Murgon, Murilla, Murweh, McKinlay, Paroo, Peak Downs, Quilpie, Tambo, Tara, Taroom, Waggamba, Winton, Wyangarie, Warroo.

Irrigation and Drainage Works.

In connection with water conservation and irrigation proposals extensive investigations are being carried out on the Condamine River, Barambah Creek, Macintyre Brook, Emerald Creek, and Walsh River.

To stimulate the production of cotton, fifty-one individual farmers in the Burnett, Callide, and other districts were provided with either spray irrigation or flooding plants.

Investigations of the underground supplies of the Callide Valley are being carried out to ascertain the possibility of growing more cotton under irrigation in that area. Ten wells are being sunk throughout the district and equipped with irrigation plants in order to test the supply, and a number of test bores are being sunk throughout the area.

A spray irrigation plant was installed at the Cotton Experimental Station, Biloela, to enable the Department of Agriculture and Stock to water experimental cotton plots.

In conjunction with the Main Roads Commission a combined weir and road bridge estimated to cost £30,303 is being constructed across the Dawson River at Moura.

Surveys are being carried out in the Ayr district in connection with flood mitigation proposals, and in the Ingham District investigations and surveys were carried out to determine what steps might be taken to arrest the erosion of the bank of the Herbert River in the vicinity of Halifax.

A proposal to conserve water in the Macintyre River at Goondiwindi was investigated, surveys being carried out and plans drawn up for a suitable weir.

A scheme is being drawn up to irrigate small areas on individual farms from underground supplies in the Gumlu district which have been tested by means of bores.

Dawson Valley Irrigation Area.

The balance of the available lands suitable for closer settlement has now been selected. These lands were very keenly sought after. The total area held and selected in the district now amounts to 675,678 acres.

Approximately 35 square miles resumed from Walloon Holding have been added to the area. This was designed for 10 portions. One small portion was granted to an adjacent selector. Nine portions open to public competition attracted 386 applicants.

Roads and bridges have been constructed to the newly settled areas to give selectors access to the nearest railway sidings.

Progress has been made in the sheep, fat lamb, cotton, and wheat production industries, together with dairying and allied closer settlement activities.

To stimulate the production of cotton a number of farms not previously irrigable have been graded and head ditches constructed to enable cotton to be grown under irrigation.

Advances have been made for effecting improvements and for the purchase of dairy stock, reasonable terms for repayment being allowed in each case.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

“ The Art Union Regulation Act of 1930.”

During the major portion of the term of the previous Government the administration of the law relating to art unions, raffles, guessing competitions, &c., was carried out in a vexatious and, at times, unnecessarily harsh manner.

Since the Labour Government has come into office, the administration of the abovenamed Act has been firm but free from any unnecessary restrictions on promoters of art unions, raffles, guessing competitions, &c. Applications for permits for charitable, religious, and educational objects, and for any other deserving causes have been sympathetically dealt with, and the results from the public point of view are entirely satisfactory.

Police Magistrates, Wardens, &c.

Inauguration of system of examination of candidates for appointment to positions of police magistrate, warden, clerk of petty sessions, and mining registrar.

Court Shorthand Reporters.

Shorthand in Law Courts and also in the Industrial Court.

Auctioneers and Commission Agents.

Auctioneers and Commission Agents, after receipt of licenses from the Court, are registered at the Department of Justice, where the aid of the Registrar is freely availed of to adjust overcharges for commission, investigate any alleged misconduct of a licensed auctioneer or commission agent, and generally to exercise such control as will help to protect the public from any auctioneer or agent who may be unscrupulous.

Rule of Court passed on 24th November, 1932, reducing Solicitors' Charges.

In respect of all business done or performed by solicitors, the charges to be made by and allowed to them may be increased by $13\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. whether the bill of costs for such work is taxed or not.

Up to 31st December, 1932, an increase of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. was permissible under Rules of Court, but the Labour Government took early action to secure this reduced charge.

Fair Rents Act.

An early Labour Government made provision, for the first time in 1920, for the determination by judicial tribunals of fair rental for dwelling houses. This legislation is a distinct success, and has been a check upon the cupidity of any rapacious landlord.

Amending Act passed in 1938 forbidding a landlord to increase the rent of a dwelling without reference to Fair Rents Court.

Fair Rents are now determined under the National Security (Fair Rents) Regulations made by the Governor-General in Council. State officers and courts are used for this purpose.

Financial Emergency Legislation (extended to 31st December, 1941).

The Department facilitates in every possible way the desire of persons detrimentally affected by economic conditions to secure relief under this legislation, which includes the Mortgagors' Relief Act, the Lessees' Relief Act, the Hire-purchase Agreement Act, the Money Lenders Acts, and the Financial Emergency Acts.

The operation of these measures has been beneficial to the community, and the Acts relieve many persons of serious anxiety through pressure of adverse circumstances over which they have no control.

The Labour Government has substantially reduced by an amendment of the Money Lenders Acts the rates of interest which money-lenders may lawfully charge.

People obtaining furniture and other necessities by means of hire-purchase agreements are now protected adequately against re-possession of the articles and against loss of moneys paid under such agreements. This measure of social justice marks an important advance in legislative action, and the statute is designed not alone to protect the hirer who is purchasing the articles, but to secure the just rights of the other party to the hiring agreement. A similar principle underlies the Contracts of Sale of Land Act passed by this Government, there being a full recognition of the rights of the vendor and the purchaser of land under a contract of sale providing for instalment payments.

Amendments to Law of Distress.

Act passed in 1934 providing for—

- (a) Protection of goods held under Hire Purchase Agreement on premises subject to distraint for rent;
- (b) Requiring the giving of notice of intention to distrain and affording the tenant a means of approaching the Court for relief.

Office of Public Curator.

Initiated and established by the Labour Government of the day in 1916, the Office of the Public Curator of Queensland, by legislation framed which provided machinery so comprehensive and efficient as to afford a most complete instrument of public utility and beneficence, furnishes the people of Queensland with a means of efficient and economical administration of their affairs.

The main object of the Public Curator, as aimed at by Labour policy, is to provide a public service for the people and to secure to beneficiaries in Estates complete safety in the investment of funds, coupled with a State Guarantee of wise and sound administration.

The means provided have greatly simplified legal processes, and reduced charges in connection with Estates handled.

As a result of Labour's foresight funds in Trust Estates are now protected to an extent impossible before the Public Curator's Office was founded.

In its wide range of service, the Public Curator's Office includes in its trained staff three barristers, two solicitors, seven conveyancers, and thirty-six accountants, and acts as—

1. Executor and Trustee under a Will, either as Sole Trustee or in conjunction with Advisory Trustees;
2. Administrator of Estates of persons who die Intestate, without the trouble and expense of obtaining sureties; Estates of Mental Patients, Convicts, &c.;
3. Trustee in place of private Trustees who desire to retire;
4. Attorney for persons who are absent or about to leave the State in the management of their affairs;
5. Conveyancer in the preparation of Agreements, Bills of Sale, Leases, Mortgages, Transfers, and all documents relating to real or personal property, at a reasonable cost;
6. Agent in respect to Land Ballot Applications, or Auctioneer in the disposal of real estate.
7. Accountant in preparing Land and Income Tax Returns for a reasonable fee;
8. Public Defender undertaking the defence of poor persons in criminal trials.

9. Liquidator under the provisions of the Companies Act;
10. Protector under Order of Supreme Court of the Estates of persons who are too old or too ill or infirm to look after their own affairs; and also
11. Legal Adviser whom poor persons may consult for free legal advice.

The attached figures show the substantial growth of the office since 1916—

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		Wills of Living Persons Deposited during the Year.	Investments.	
Year.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			
		£		£		£	
1916	6,550	281,533	6,848	223,418	1,811	97,071
1917	8,671	335,908	10,088	340,489	2,024	192,843
1918	13,429	473,887	13,784	517,085	1,583	314,180
1919	15,841	560,625	16,571	551,922	1,919	368,466
1920	17,755	594,142	17,536	568,715	1,266	427,000
1921	19,376	602,103	18,267	608,079	1,399	487,032
1922	23,374	709,964	20,045	716,378	2,478	493,669
1923	22,018	702,057	21,035	706,240	2,936	572,702
1924	29,887	672,940	23,107	687,754	2,770	609,734
1925	32,447	863,686	23,146	824,682	4,116	673,785
1926	36,632	975,512	26,043	985,375	4,578	785,563
1927	39,352	1,018,509	28,183	1,002,531	3,974	870,757
1928	40,990	1,126,044	30,930	1,185,246	3,159	962,764
1929	43,629	1,282,439	31,774	1,284,903	2,959	1,020,776
1930	45,313	1,099,905	32,958	1,105,080	2,909	997,730
1931	45,799	863,998	34,391	844,129	3,993	1,005,471
1932	50,049	967,261	36,147	826,775	3,717	1,084,194
1933	50,049	990,919	36,147	886,775	2,317	1,084,195
1934	55,922	1,305,040	31,771	1,239,441	2,967	1,066,771
1935	59,741	1,372,839	34,764	1,461,370	2,549	1,044,226
1936	60,007	1,083,504	34,489	1,094,022	2,458	1,056,101
1937	61,017	1,179,348	33,103	1,151,225	2,481	1,069,494
1938	61,636	1,309,231	34,570	1,330,059	2,568	1,014,006
1939	60,396	1,376,771	34,804	1,443,171	3,002	1,133,165
1940	57,283	1,093,627	33,487	1,044,480	2,738	1,177,407

The Public Curator caters for a State-wide service, having Branches at Townsville, Rockhampton, and Cairns, and Agencies at every Office of the Clerk of Petty Sessions in the State.

The Unclaimed Moneys Fund had increased to £286,073 Os. 5d. as at 30th June, 1940, of which £285,000 is invested in Government Securities.

The Reserve Fund, which has been built up from accumulated profits and against which any general or specific loss might be recouped, had a credit of £59,916 at 30th June, 1940.

Total assets at 30th June, 1933, amounted to £1,188,204 13s. 3d.; at 30th June, 1934, assets amounted to £1,237,041; at 30th June, 1935, £1,142,321; 30th June, 1936, £1,145,857 11s. 9d.; 30th June, 1937, £1,177,806 13s. 3d.; 30th June, 1938, £1,195,546 19s. 7d.; 30th June, 1939, £1,168,127 8s.; and 30th June, 1940, £1,178,364 14s. 7d.

The Office continues to pay its way and it is not, and never has been, since its inception on 1st January, 1916, a charge on the general revenue of the State. In no single year has the Office shown a loss.

TREASURY.

STATEMENT OF LOANS AND SUBSIDIES MADE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

<i>Financial Year, 1932-33.</i>					£
Loans	..	..	..	..	612,091
Subsidies	..	..	..	..	429,131
					£1,041,222

<i>Financial Year, 1933-34.</i>					£
Loans (carrying subsidy)	..	..	..	..	1,473,025
Subsidies	..	..	..	..	987,219
Loans (without subsidy)	..	..	..	..	123,200
					£2,583,444

<i>Financial Year, 1934-35.</i>					£
Loans (carrying subsidy)	..	..	..	..	520,311
Subsidies	..	..	..	..	1,146,373
Loans (without subsidy)	..	..	..	..	69,594
					£1,736,278

<i>Financial Year, 1935-36.</i>					£
Loans (carrying subsidy)	..	..	..	..	881,690
Subsidies	..	..	..	..	965,201
Loans (without subsidy)	..	..	..	..	122,454
					£1,969,345

Financial Year, 1936-37.

	£
Loans (carrying subsidy)	430,733
Subsidies	637,838
Loans (without subsidy)	221,901
	<hr/>
	£1,290,472

Financial Year, 1937-38.

	£
Loans (carrying subsidy)	205,278*
Subsidies	816,315
Loans (without subsidy)	61,273
	<hr/>
	£1,082,866

Financial Year, 1938-39.

	£
Loans (carrying subsidy)	57,172*
Subsidies	445,798†
Loans (without subsidy)	26,687
	<hr/>
	£529,657‡

Financial Year, 1939-40.

	£
Loans (carrying subsidy)	107,023*
Subsidies	372,085†
Loans (without subsidy)	141,365
	<hr/>
	£620,473‡

In addition to the above, the following amounts have been made available to Local Authorities, under the Commonwealth-States Grants Scheme:—

Financial Year, 1936-37.

	£
Loans	209,303
Subsidies	104,659
	<hr/>
	£313,962

Financial Year, 1937-38.

	£
Loans	783*
Subsidies	23,847
	<hr/>
	£24,630

<i>Financial Year, 1938-39.</i>					£
Loans	..	..	..	..	2,346*
Subsidies	..	..	..	..	1,374
					<hr/>
					£3,720

Financial Year, 1939-40.
Nil.

Year 1938-39.

The transactions of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year ended 30th June, 1939, resulted in a surplus of £14,046. This was the first surplus recorded in the Queensland Treasury accounts since the financial year 1927-28, and consummated the Government's efforts towards Budget equilibrium since its election to office in 1932. In that year the deficit was £2,075,000, which was reduced by annual progressive improvements culminating in a small surplus in the year just closed.

Revenue for the year totalled £19,330,369, and expenditure amounted to £19,316,323.

Railway Revenue for the year, amounting to £7,638,525 reached a new high level, and was greater than that of the previous year by £412,197.

Little variation was shown in the actual disbursements under all headings, as compared with the Budget provision.

Interest, Sinking Fund, and Exchange absorbed 34.28 per cent. of the total expenditure for the year, and 41.47 per cent. of the total was required for the payment of salaries and wages.

* In addition to these amounts, debenture loans have been obtained by Local Authorities from banks or other financial institutions, to defray the Local Authorities' proportion of the cost of subsidised loan schemes, and the repayment of such debenture loans has been guaranteed by the Queensland Government.

† Does not include grants from funds made available to the State by the Commonwealth under the new Federal Aid Roads Agreement.

‡ Includes Treasury loans and/or subsidies made available on the understanding that the Treasury pays one-fifth of the interest and redemption for 15 years or for the period of the loan if such be less than 15 years.

Year 1939-40.

The operations of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the year resulted in a surplus of £15,755.

The receipts were £20,755,505, and the expenditure amounted to £20,739,750.

Continued buoyancy was shown in the State revenues for the year, the total being £444,770 in excess of the Budget estimate.

Receipts from taxation exceeded the estimate by £334,969, Railway revenue was £38,487 more than anticipated, and an excess of £64,833 was also shown under other receipts.

The earnings of the Railway Department resulted in a surplus of £20,007, after meeting all working expenses and interest charges. An increase of 267,573 was registered in the train mileage as compared with 1938-39.

The expenditure totalled £20,739,750, being £364,313 more than the estimated provision.

Working expenses of the Railway Department increased during the year by £185,862, due principally to increased basic wage, automatic and award increases to the staff, flood damages, heavy locomotive boiler replacements, increased prices of certain stores and material, due to war conditions, and also to the increased traffic.

The amount required for overseas exchange was £888,209, or £60,129 more than the previous year's expenditure.

The Sinking Fund charge on the Public Debt of the State increased by £33,265 to £673,021.

Estimates for 1940-41.

			£
Estimated Revenue	..	..	21,198,785
Estimated Expenditure	..	..	21,193,188
			<hr/>
Estimated Surplus	..	..	£5,597

LAND AND INCOME TAX.

Year 1936-37.

The net assessments made during 1936-37 showed an increase of £274,918; assessments for Income Tax showing an increase of £284,342, and Land Tax a decrease of £9,424.

Year 1937-38.

The net assessments made during the year 1937-38 showed an increase of £373,198; assessments for Income Tax showing an increase of £367,918, and Land Tax an increase of £5,280.

Year 1938-39.

The net assessments made during the year 1938-39 showed an increase of £201,510; assessments for Income Tax showing an increase of £197,104, and Land Tax an increase of £4,406. The following table showing net assessments sets out the position:—

—	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Income Tax—	£	£	£
For year	2,441,140	2,867,518	2,745,023
On account of previous years	284,232	225,772	545,371
	2,725,372	3,093,290	3,290,394
Land Tax—			
For year	385,722	387,847	391,754
On account of previous years	6,566	9,721	10,220
	392,288	397,568	401,974
Totals	£3,117,660	£3,490,858	£3,692,368

NET COLLECTIONS.

The net collections for 1936-37, 1937-38, and 1938-39 are as under:—

—	1936-37.	1937-38.	1938-39.
Income Tax	£	£	£
Income Tax, Miscellaneous	2,642,613	2,955,820	3,250,956
	1,122	1,163	1,205
	2,643,735	2,956,983	3,252,161
Land Tax, including Miscellaneous	402,308	405,070	401,682
	£3,046,043	£3,362,053	£3,653,843

Year 1939-1940.

The net assessments made during the year 1939-40 showed an increase of £308,771; assessments for Income Tax showing an increase of £303,907 and Land Tax an increase of £4,864.

Income Tax—	£
For year	3,101,087
On account of previous years ..	493,214
	<u>3,594,301</u>
Land Tax—	
For year	396,885
On account of previous years ..	9,953
	<u>406,838</u>
Total	<u><u>£4,001,139</u></u>

Net Collections for 1939-40.

	£
Income Tax	3,537,748
Income Tax, Miscellaneous	1,167
	<u>3,538,915</u>
Land Tax, including Miscellaneous ..	408,640
	<u><u>£3,947,555</u></u>

STATE INSURANCE, 1939-40.

The 1st July, 1940, marked the completion by the State Government Insurance of twenty-four years of outstanding insurance service, and a record of achievement unsurpassed by any similar institution. The results achieved by this purely Queensland office have amply justified the legislation passed by a Labour Government in 1916 for its establishment. Not only has it made sturdy growth and rapid progress, but it has carried out a main purpose—the payment of claims in various classes of insurance business, with an honourable record to the credit of the Government and itself.

The following table gives a detailed statement of claims paid in all Departments of the Office for the twenty-four years ended 30th June, 1940.

Department.	Actual Amount of Payments.
(1) Workers' Compensation—	£
(a) Accidents and Section 14 Industrial Diseases	7,678,091
(b) Mining Diseases 	595,037
	<hr/> 8,273,128
(2) Life 	2,473,524
(3) Fire 	974,848
(4) Miscellaneous 	165,999
(5) Marine 	23,573
	<hr/>
Totals 	£11,911,072

Amount of Claims Expenditure—Workers' Compensation.

The amount of compensation paid for the year was £526,653, against £521,795 paid during the previous year.

The number of accidents reported show a decrease over the previous year, the number of claims intimated being 22,466 for 1939-40, as against 23,190 for the year 1938-39.

Workers' Compensation Statistics.

Claims record for twenty-four years (i.e., since inauguration of office) show—

Number of accidents intimated	359,175
Number of claims settled	323,445
Number of claims rejected	9,742
Made no claim	23,436
Number of claims outstanding at 30th June, 1940	2,552
Total amount paid (all claims)	£8,273,128

Fire Insurance.

Continued progress has marked the work of this Department, which was commenced on 1st February, 1917, at rates approximately 11 per cent. below those previously charged. As a result of this and further reductions in premium rates, and an annual distribution of fire profits in the form of a 10 per cent. bonus since 1st October, 1925, which was increased to 20 per cent. as from 1st November, 1938, the insuring public of Queensland have been saved approximately £7,200,000 to 1st October, 1939, made up as follows:—

Saving owing to reduction of premium
rates £6,100,000

Saving owing to distribution of profits
and of bonus given since 1st
October, 1925 £1,100,000

For the year ended 30th June, 1940, a record profit of £100,719 is shown for the year's trading.

The net premiums total £159,733.

The claims paid totalled £30,570.

Division of Profits.—Following on the principle always carried out by the Office, the increase division of profits among Policy-holders was again made, and a 20 per cent. profit distribution on actual renewal premiums was granted to all State Insurance Fire Policy-holders on all renewals prior to 31st October, 1940.

Life Insurance.

The Life Department was opened on 1st January, 1918, and has been phenomenally successful.

The success of this Department may be gauged by the fact that following on the actuary's valuation of the liabilities under the contracts in force at 31st December, 1922 (four years after the commencement of business), the office declared a reversionary bonus of £1 10s. per £100 insured per annum on "Whole Life" participating policies, and £1 per £100 insured on Endowment Insurance and Endowment Policies.

No Australian Life Office, except one, has declared a bonus so early in its existence, and few, if any, have declared a bonus on the first three years' working in any way approaching that distributed by the State Government Insurance Office.

Bonuses have been declared annually since 1922 and have steadily increased.

The fact that the Life Insurance Funds as at 30th June, 1940, total £4,493,273 tells a story of public confidence, and public security, which need not be elaborated.

The Actuary's report at 31st December, 1939, shows 54,456 policies in force for a total sum insured of £12,366,273.

New premiums were £46,631.

Renewal premiums were £370,127, and the total income was £604,886.

Claims by death and maturity amounted to £212,707.

Specimen of Bonus Issued for Year ended 31-12-39.

				Per £100 assured.		
				£	s.	d.
Whole Life	..	..	..	2	2	0
Endowment Assurances and Pure						
Endowments—						
Term 35 years and over	..	..	..	1	15	0
Term 30 years and under 35						
years	..	..	..	1	8	0
Term under 20 years	..	..	..	1	1	0

It has been approved that in future a full annual bonus will be allowed for the calendar year of issue irrespective of the date of issue of the policy in any one year and whether the premium is paid yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly.

Valuation Report of the State Government Insurance Office as at 31st December, 1939.

I have valued the Life Insurance, Endowment, and Annuity Contracts of the State Government Insurance Office in force at 31st December, 1939, according to the schedules supplied by the Insurance Commissioner, as follows:—

—	No. of Policies.	Sum Insured.	Bonus Additions.	Annual Premiums.
		£	£	£ s. d.
Life Insurances ..	53,817	12,351,212-90	1,213,783-50	416,269 17 7
Deduct Reinsurances ..	..	19,741-50	..	359 7 8
Net Insurances ..	53,817	12,331,471-40	1,213,783-50	415,910 9 11
Endowments ..	428	34,762-33	455-60	2,011 1 3
Annuities ..	211	(p.a.) 11,022-00	..	164 7 10
Total ..	54,456	12,366,233-73 (p.a.) 11,022-00	1,213,939-10	418,085 19 0

Miscellaneous Department.

The Miscellaneous Department, which embraces plate glass, personal accident, comprehensive motor-car, public risk, fidelity guarantee, ordinary guarantee, burglary, and ledger guarantee insurances was opened for the transaction of business on 1st February, 1917, at rates 10 per cent. lower than those operating prior to the establishment of the office by "*The Insurance Act of 1916.*"

From the first year of operations this Department functioned profitably, and each year has grown steadily. The account, after all necessary provisions have been made, shows a profit for the year of £28,130.

As from 1st March, 1940, rates under the Acts were revised, and a new Schedule was issued by Regulation, providing for many reduced premiums and allowing 20 per cent., 25 per cent., and 30 per cent. No Claim Bonuses,

respectively, off premiums, provided that the Policy did not attract claims for one, two, or three or more years, respectively, immediately preceding renewal dates.

It has been approved as from 1st October, 1940, that renewal premiums under Comprehensive Motor Vehicle Policies shall carry a "No Claim" bonus of 20, 25, or 30 per cent. on the last year's premium, under State Office Policies, provided that no claim is pending, and that no payment in respect of any claim has been made for one, two, or three or more years, respectively, immediately preceding renewal date.

As from 1st January, 1940, rates for Fidelity Bonds under—

- (a) "*The Auctioneers and Commission Agents Acts, 1922 to 1936,*" and
- (b) "*The Farm Produce Agents Acts, 1917 to 1932,*"

were reduced.

Satisfactory Year.

The account, after all necessary provisions have been made, shows a profit of £28,130.

As from 1st October, 1929, premium rates in regard to Railway Ledger Accounts were reduced 25 per cent. As the claims experience has continued favourable, a further 25 per cent. reduction has been granted as from 1st April, 1939.

Marine.

The Marine Department was opened on 1st August, 1919, and has maintained steady progress.

The Profit and Loss Account for the year shows a balance of £4,106 after all necessary reserves have been made.

As from 1st November, 1938, a reduction of 20 per cent. has been given on all Marine Insurance premiums.

HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS.

SUNDRY NOTES.

Wireless.

Institution of wireless transmission and receiving equipments on all the important islands of Torres Strait, and on all mission stations on the Cape York Peninsula, with Thursday Island as the basic station.

Maternal and Child Welfare—

(Clinics first established in 1916)—

Work shows steady increase during 1939-40. Total attendance, 265,269 (an increase of 23,358 on year 1938-39).

At end of June, 1940—

Clinics, including sub-centres, 135.

Clinics free, and mothers are encouraged to avail themselves of their services. Notifications of births which occur in an area served by a Maternal and Child Welfare Centre must be furnished to the District Registrar within 72 hours; these notifications then submitted to the nurse in charge of Clinic, who gets in touch with the mother to advise her in regard to correct feeding and care of the infant.

Ante-natal Clinics—

Ten ante-natal clinics are established in Brisbane. Attendance, 2,209.

Infant Welfare Rail Car—

Since February, 1939, the car has been engaged on a regular service in North-West Queensland, with headquarters at Winton, and visits Cloncurry, Hughenden, Julia Creek, Mount Isa, Prairie, and Richmond.

During 1939-40 the number of attendance for the car was 3,545.

School Health Services.

Medical inspection of schools and school children carried out by one full-time medical officer, one part-time officer, and one part-time ophthalmic specialist under

general direction of Chief Medical Officer, School Health Services. Nurses also appointed. Each nurse assigned to group of schools with duties of supervision and report.

A staff of 16 dentists also supplied. Also Rail Dental Clinics constructed to give medical and dental facilities to children of the "back country." Two road motor clinics also provided, one functioning in south-western portion of State with Charleville as base, and the other in central-west and north-west territory, using Longreach as centre.

Ophthalmic officer, one part-time surgeon, 21 part-time medical practitioners.

At Wilson Ophthalmic School Hostel children suffering from trachoma treated and educated.

Medical.—One whole-time and one part-time medical officer; 14 nursing sisters.

Hookworm control work under control of Director-General of Health and Medical Services.

Maternity Hospitals.

In 1922, the Government being concerned at the lack of hospital provision for maternity cases decided to erect and equip maternity hospitals in approved localities throughout the State, and hand them over free of cost to the Board or Committee controlling the hospital to which they were attached. To date ninety-nine such hospitals have been completed, including the Brisbane Women's Hospital.

Number of births in public maternity hospitals during year 1939, 10,127 (representing 50.9 per cent. of births of the State).

Improved system of Training of Maternity Nurses.

Dental Clinics.

Government has erected and equipped nine dental clinics at certain hospitals. Clinics controlled and staffed by Hospitals Board in charge of hospital to which they are attached. Two sub-clinics in addition have been equipped.

In addition to meeting cost of erecting and equipping, Government has accepted responsibility for providing necessary dental material for the first year of a clinic's operation.

Police Department.

Completion and opening of a new Police Barracks at Petrie terrace, Brisbane.

Department of Public Health (Kenny Clinics).

1939.—New Kenny Clinic established at Rockhampton.

Kenny Clinics at Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, and Brisbane taken over by the respective Hospital Boards in those centres.

General.

Continued activity to overcome Weil's disease.

Continued supervision over food supplies.

Control of the sale and use of dangerous drugs.

Increased supervision in Local Authority administration of Health Acts in relation to sanitation throughout the State.

Increased safety methods in respect of traffic control.

Air raids precaution scheme and attention to basic lines of administration and training therein, in conjunction with Committee. A measure passed in 1939 authorises the carrying out by the air-raid wardens of their powers and duties during the period of an air raid.

Legislation (*see* Legislative Pamphlets).

Considerable activity in consolidating and bringing legislation up to date in accordance with modern requirements has characterised this Department during the past years.

Reference particularly may be made to—

Adoption of Children Act, 1935.

Health Acts, 1937-1939.

Hospitals Act of 1936.

Local Government Acts, 1936-1940.

Liquor Acts Amendment Act, 1935.

Police Act of 1937.

Prisoners Parole Act of 1937.

Mental Hygiene Act of 1938.

Backward Persons Act of 1938.

Medical Acts, 1939-1940.

Aboriginals Protection and Preservation Act of 1939.

Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939.

Public Safety Act of 1940.

Cinematograph Films Hiring Agreement Act of 1940.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND STOCK.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUREAU OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

The function of the Bureau of Rural Development is mainly to provide financial assistance for the settlement and development of country land for primary production. "*The Rural Development Co-ordination of Advances Act of 1938*" is administered by the Corporation and subject to the Secretary for Agriculture and Stock by the Rural Development Board, consisting of three members representative of the Departments of Agriculture and Stock, Lands, and Treasury, respectively, the Secretary thereof, and other officers deputed in that behalf.

Advances to farmers may be made generally up to 16s. in the £1 of the fair estimated value of the applicant's farm land, including permanent improvements made and proposed to be made. To assist beginners especially, advances up to £500 for essential improvements may be made at the rate of £1 for £1.

Loans up to prescribed limits are available for the purchase of dairy and beef cattle, sheep, &c., machinery and plant for fodder conservation and irrigation purposes, as well as for other approved purposes, to farmers unable

to offer first mortgage security, or whose borrowing limit has been absorbed by advances made previously. The maximum loan to any one applicant, including special advances, is £1,800. Interest rates are $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum and $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, the higher rate being for loans, including an amount for balance of purchase money or to release existing encumbrances.

Loans are repayable over a term not exceeding twenty (20) years, exclusive of any period of up to five (5) years, during which interest only may be payable. The term in each case is fixed at the time an advance is granted, but may be subsequently modified if the borrower's position warrants such action.

The Bureau may also provide financial assistance to co-operative companies and associations for the construction of works, installation of machinery, &c., and to Commodity Boards for approved purposes.

To meet the needs of farmers and others unable to qualify for assistance through the ordinary channels, the Bureau may make advances under the Income (State Development) Tax Acts. Such advances, generally not exceeding £200, provide an opportunity for those wishing to engage in farming pursuits who have only very limited resources.

The Bureau also administers the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Acts.

Advances approved during the Financial Year ended the 30th June, 1940, are set out hereunder:—

—	Number of Applicants.	Amount.
		£
Advances to Farmers	1,166	290,729
Co-operative Companies	3	10,456
Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Acts ..	8	895
Rural Development Board under Income (State Development) Tax Acts	145	3,795
	1,322	£305,875

Farmers' Debt Adjustment.

Under the Commonwealth Loan (Farmers' Debts Adjustment) Act of 1935-36 provision was made for grants to the States for the purpose of rural rehabilitation. The disbursement of the funds in Queensland is controlled by the Rural Development Board under "*The Farmers' Assistance (Debts Adjustment) Acts, 1935 to 1938.*" Advances may only be made to farmers for the adjustment of suitably compounded debts, as a result of which they will be able to carry on their farming operations with a reasonable prospect of success.

Cotton-growing.

The cotton-growing industry in Queensland under the Labour Government has played an important part in the settling of this State, more particularly those newer districts thrown open for closer settlement, including the Callide Valley and the Upper Burnett, both districts having proved eminently suitable for the successful production of cotton of a high quality.

It was early realised that the best way to establish the industry permanently was to develop an Australian market for it. Accordingly, the Commonwealth Government evolved a bounty system for seed cotton and cotton yarns in 1926-27, by which it was hoped to develop a spinning industry in the Commonwealth. Mills soon became established, which produced satisfactory products, and as the industry developed, the bounty system was replaced by a protective tariff on yarns and goods that could be manufactured from Queensland-grown cotton. This system now operates, and has resulted in increased manufactures of cotton goods in this country, as well as providing an opportunity for expansion in cotton-growing.

Approximately 3,000 farmers grow between 50,000 and 70,000 acres of cotton annually in this State, and employ between 3,000 and 4,000 casual workers in picking the crop. In addition to this, considerable employment is provided in the transportation of the crop from the farm to the ginnery. When the employees at the spinning and knitting mills in various parts of the Commonwealth are

considered, it can be appreciated what a great employer of labour the cotton industry is, and no doubt the development of the cotton-growing and manufacturing industries to the fullest extent would materially improve the welfare of many people in Australia.

It is also desirable that cotton-growing be developed on as large a scale as possible in this country from the standpoint of supply of various commodities. Not only are the actual fibres of value, but the by-products obtained from the cotton seed play a most important part in the economics of the country.

The establishment by the State Government of a Cotton Research Station, situated at Biloela, in the Callide Valley, has proved most successful, and many technical problems connected with cotton-growing have been investigated. Amongst these might be mentioned the value of cotton crop rotation with grassland. The Research Station has engaged a well-trained technical staff, studying the many problems confronting the growers. Breeding work is carried out extensively, including cross-breeding for insect resistance, breeding for more suitable strains, and pure seed selection work, and, in addition, investigational work is being conducted in relation to the incidence of cotton insect pests.

A Field Staff stationed in the main districts to make contact with growers has been established, in order that the full application of the results obtained at the Research Station can be realised by each grower.

To obtain the full value of the crops produced, it was realised that the product must be prepared for sale in the best possible manner. Accordingly, a Government staff of cotton-graders has been trained, and the whole crop is now graded by this staff.

It will thus be seen that the Government has placed the industry on a carefully established basis, as indicated by the expansion in acreage that has taken place, starting with 166 acres in the 1919-20 season—the first one under the system of guarantee—to the more recent years, when around 50,000 acres have been sown annually.

Cotton is of vital importance, particularly at present when the Commonwealth is devising a defence scheme. Realising the possibilities of supplementing the present acreage of natural-grown cotton by means of irrigation, the Queensland Government has instituted a comprehensive survey of the irrigation possibilities of the State.

Dairy Industry.

The sympathetic application of the provisions of "*The Dairy Produce Acts Amendment Act of 1935*" has effected a considerable improvement in the standard of buildings on dairy farms. The value of cleanliness in production has been stressed, and the more hygienic methods adopted by dairymen have maintained the improvement in the quality of butter graded for export.

The Dairy Produce Acts Amendment Acts of 1938 and 1939 also provide for an improvement in quality through the health of dairy stock. The effect of recent legislation has been a marked improvement in the quality of dairy produce. This is strikingly illustrated by the increase in choice butter and the improved quality of cheese. Dairymen generally have adopted the more hygienic methods of production recommended. The most recent amendment to the Dairy Produce Acts provides for the use of steam sterilisation on dairies where milking machines are in use. To ensure that the producer is paid for his produce according to its quality, factories are obliged to publish in the specified form their payments to suppliers.

Since its establishment, the Dairy Research Laboratory has proved a boon to the industry, and has given the manufacturers considerable assistance by its investigations into butter and cheese defects. Water supplies were improved, and factory technique was brought up to date.

A second laboratory was established at Toowoomba, where work was chiefly confined to cheese problems. A travelling laboratory also has been touring the dairying districts of the Darling Downs in charge of experts of the Department of Agriculture and Stock.

All recent amending legislation affecting the Dairying Industry has been designed chiefly to assist in improving the quality of the produce. The chief amendments were passed in 1935, when provision was made for differential rates of payment for the different grades of cream, the control of the transport of cream along roads and restraining of suppliers from diverting their supplies from one factory to another without notice. Some of these provisions were found to require strengthening, and this was done by further amendments in 1938 and 1939, which gave protection to factory testers and graders in the carrying out of their duties, created power for veterinary surgeons to test dairy stock for disease, provided for the use of steam sterilisation on dairy farms where milking machines are operating, the special marking of pure-bred cows that have qualified for the advanced register, and the method of publication by factories of payments to suppliers. The latest amendment passed last session gives to the Director of Veterinary Services certain powers previously vested in the Director of Dairying and the Chief Inspector of Stock, in relation to the health of stock.

Dairy Research Laboratories at Brisbane and Toowoomba have materially assisted in improving the process of manufacture of butter and cheese. The travelling laboratory on the Darling Downs has influenced the marked improvement to be noted in the quality of cheese now being manufactured.

The facilities offered by the Government in regard to herd testing are availed of by dairymen realising the value of breeding only from high-class animals. The scheme is carried out with the co-operation of the local butter factories.

Under the Dairy Cattle Improvement Rebate Scheme, a rebate of the rail freight on approved bulls is granted, and the grant is freely availed of by progressive dairymen.

The veterinary services provided under the Dairy Cattle Improvement Act have been appreciated, and the services of these officers have been in constant demand.

The Fruit Industry.

Weather conditions were generally favourable to fruit-growers throughout the State during the year under review. Late winter rains ensured a good early spring, and although these were followed by a dry spell, summer rains were timely.

Progress has continued with a number of Governmental fruit experiments. Several new varieties of dates have been planted in the South and Central West for observational purposes, whilst sufficient data in regard to the blossoming habits of avocados has been collated to enable definite recommendations to be made to planters in regard to the proper interplanting of varieties.

In view of the importance of the tomato industry to Queensland, a new programme of investigational work has been instituted with the object of reducing costs of production and ensuring earlier maturity of fruit. The programme has entailed a great deal of work, but already a considerable amount of valuable information has been gained and passed on to growers. Seed selection also has been undertaken with a view to securing disease-free supplies, from which growers will be able to grow their own requirements.

An experiment in the Stanthorpe district has shown that the quality of certain varieties of grapes can be improved by applying boron to the soil, whilst in coastal vineyards phylloxera resistant root stocks are being tested.

With the object of teaching the young as well as the older generation in the West, the correct method of cultivating citrus fruit, demonstration orchards have been planted at two big schools, and, under the guidance of Departmental officers, are being cared for by the children.

Demonstration plots in the main pineapple districts are being continued, and are of much value and interest to growers, showing as they do the benefits of correct cultivation, fertilising, &c.

In North Queensland, hybridising work is being carried out with passion fruit, in an endeavour to impart the good marketing qualities of the common purple-fruited variety to a hardier and more disease-resisting variety. Ninety hybrid plants have been planted out in an experimental orchard, and results are awaited.

The production of better varieties of mangoes is also being fostered, and at Townsville a selection of some hundreds of grafted trees of different kinds has been planted out.

At Cairns, a portion of the old Kamerunga State Nursery has been resumed, and here horticultural experiments of several kinds are in progress.

The methods employed by fruitgrowers throughout the State in the packing and marketing of their produce continue to show improvement as a result of education at field days, on growers' own orchards and at School Packing classes.

The quality of citrus fruits produced from young trees is remarkably improved as a result of the selection of budwood for nurserymen under Government supervision. Last year, approximately 100,000 buds were obtained from selected trees, and growers now purchase all their tree requirements within the State, whilst an export trade is being developed.

Sugar Industry.

System of control first instituted by Labour Government: First Sugar Agreement entered into between two Labour Governments—Fisher (Commonwealth), Ryan (Queensland) Administrations. Sugar Acquisition Act of 1915—a Labour measure—was a consequence, and is effective to the present day. This Act makes it possible to have agreements with the Commonwealth for the disposal of the crop and subsequently a pooling scheme. The sugar agreement was ratified by an Act of the Parliament of the Commonwealth (Sugar Agreement Act of 1932) and

operated from 1933-36. Following strong representations by the Premier of Queensland (Hon. W. Forgan Smith), the Prime Minister decided to extend the Sugar Agreement for five years from 1st September, 1936 (ratified by the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement Act of 1935). The Agreement was renewed early in 1940, and will continue in force until 1946, on the same basis as the 1936 agreement. This decision is gratifying, and will result in continued stabilisation of the Sugar Industry.

STATISTICS.

—		Acres Cultivated for Sugar.	Acres Crushed.	Cane Crushed.	Sugar Made at 94 N.T.
1911-15	(annual average)	146,799	95,837	1,537,880	179,107
1931..	.. ..	309,818	233,304	4,034,300	581,276
1932..	.. ..	291,136	205,046	3,546,370	514,027
1933..	.. ..	311,910	228,154	4,667,122	638,559
1934..	.. ..	303,926	218,426	4,271,380	611,161
1935..	.. ..	314,700	228,515	4,220,435	610,080
1936..	.. ..	338,686	245,918	5,170,571	744,676
1937..	.. ..	348,840	249,782	5,139,679	762,794
1938..	.. ..	347,199	251,847	5,342,193	778,064
1939..	.. ..	353,936	261,047	6,038,821	891,422
1940*	.. ..	†	270,000	5,230,000	780,000

* Preliminary figures.

† Not available.

Approximately 21,000 field and mill workers are engaged with a salary and wages bill of approximately £3,185,000.

Among further employment directly provided by the Sugar Industry (not included in the above) are transport workers. In addition to direct employment, there is a great deal of indirect employment due to the Sugar Industry in other branches of industry and business, both in Queensland and in the Southern States, as the persons engaged in the industry and their dependants require food, clothing, and housing, while the mills require machinery, fuel, and so on.

The above figures will indicate the immense importance of the Sugar Industry, not only in Queensland, but to Australia generally.

THE VALUE OF CANE CRUSHED—QUEENSLAND.

						Total Value of Cane.	Average Price Per Ton.		
						£	£	s.	d.
1929	..	..	..	..	..	7,163,024	2	0	0
1930	..	..	..	..	..	7,040,415	1	19	11
1931	..	..	..	..	..	7,326,233	1	16	4
1932	..	..	..	..	..	6,852,717	1	18	8
1933	..	..	..	..	..	7,247,122	1	11	1
1934	..	..	..	..	..	6,934,764	1	12	6
1935	..	..	..	..	..	7,051,390	1	13	5
1936	..	..	..	..	..	8,286,000	1	13	6
1937	..	..	..	..	..	8,572,730	1	13	5
1938	..	..	..	..	..	8,691,656	1	12	6
1939	..	..	..	..	..	10,115,000	1	13	6
1940*	..	..	..	..	..	8,760,000	1	14	6

* Not yet finalised. Figures shown are estimates only.

VALUE OF RAW SUGAR IN QUEENSLAND.

Year.								Value of Raw Sugar Produced.	
								£	
1929	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,521,550	
1930	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,079,420	
1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,458,120	
1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,667,990	
1933	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,328,690	
1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,488,275	
1935	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,877,100	
1936	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,962,873	
1937	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,326,230	
1938	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,372,676	
1939	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,042,000	
1940	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*12,000,000	

* Not yet finalised, estimate only.

Value of sugar made in 1939 was £14,042,000, compared with £11,372,676 in 1938, the increase being £2,669,324.

In 1939 it took 6.77 tons of cane to make 1 ton of sugar at 94 N.T. This is easily a world's record production figure.

QUEENSLAND SUGAR BOARD'S ACCOUNTS.

(From Report of Auditor-General for year ending
30th June, 1940.)

A statement of the quantities purchased, gross values, and sales, &c., during the year 1939-40, is given hereunder (compared with previous years):—

—	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.	+ Increase. — Decrease.
Raw sugar purchased ..	782,461 tons	795,454 tons	900,604 tons	+105,150 tons
Total price	£12,450,455	£12,488,197	£14,737,591	+£2,249,394
Quantity—				
Australian requirements	351,900 tons	351,282 tons	371,750 tons	+ 20,468 tons
Exported	430,523 tons	444,172 tons	528,851 tons	+ 84,679 tons
Sales in Australia ..	£11,378,878	£11,391,772	£12,261,186	+£869,414
Sales Overseas	£5,477,672	£5,280,810	£7,447,843	+£2,167,033

* AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

(From the Government Statistician.)

QUANTITY AND ESTIMATED VALUE.

—	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
	£	£	£	£	£
Total Value	11,905,806	12,380,165	13,557,000	14,931,267	15,564,303

* At date of publication Agricultural Statistics for 1939 were not available.

Principal Items.

—	1933.		1934.	
	Principal Items.	Value.	Principal Items.	Value.
		£		£
Sugar-cane ..	4,667,122 tons	7,247,122	4,271,380 tons	6,934,764
Tobacco ..	2,079,754 lb.	129,985	1,025,049 lb.	69,400
Wheat ..	4,361,614 bus.	748,289	4,076,181 bus.	*776,689
Bananas ..	2,027,505 bun.	470,776	1,905,900 bun.	335,685

* Includes Bounty and Special Assistance, £100,700 in 1934.

	1935.		1936.	
	Principal Items.	Value.	Principal Items.	Value.
		£		£
Sugar-cane ..	4,220,435 tons	7,073,049	5,170,571 tons	8,297,838
Tobacco ..	1,555,083 lb.	140,880	2,005,031 lb.	165,916
Wheat ..	2,690,316 bus.	*597,059	2,016,236 bus.	580,000
Bananas ..	1,733,378 bun.	302,560	1,447,244 bun.	282,850

* Includes Bounty and Special Assistance, £42,799 in 1935.

	1937.		1938.	
	Principal Items.	Value.	Principal Items.	Value.
		£		£
Sugar-cane ..	5,132,886 tons	8,572,730	5,342,193 tons	8,691,656
Tobacco ..	2,317,066 lb.	197,047	2,197,240 lb.	184,385
Wheat ..	3,749,443 bus.	781,135	8,583,736 bus.	*1,053,190
Bananas ..	1,517,451 bun.	383,764	1,758,898 bun.	343,724

* Includes Bounty £149,336.

Total Area under Crops of All Kinds.

						Acres.
1931	..	..	..	..	..	1,216,402
1932	..	..	..	..	..	1,245,638
1933	..	..	..	..	..	1,313,438
1934	..	..	..	..	..	1,296,619
1935	..	..	..	..	..	1,334,690
1936	..	..	..	..	..	1,506,423
1937	..	..	..	..	..	1,618,738
1938	..	..	..	..	..	1,734,789

**Wool, Queensland—Quantity and Value Exported Overseas.*

Year Ending 30th June.	GREASY.		SCOURED.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	lb.	£	lb.	£
1932.. ..	149,541,226	5,367,646	14,198,049	795,779
1933.. ..	142,716,884	5,359,620	17,193,918	1,055,563
1934.. ..	128,534,115	8,094,432	18,716,446	1,879,241
1935.. ..	137,837,068	6,047,655	17,424,690	1,322,716
1936.. ..	109,839,914	6,603,031	14,334,775	1,267,637
1937.. ..	129,103,867	9,040,128	11,060,586	1,130,124
1938.. ..	142,782,644	8,297,012	11,479,889	1,094,768
1939.. ..	160,043,723	7,577,930	12,493,633	943,631

* Data for 1939-1940 is censored.

Queensland—Production.

Year.						Factory Production.	Value of Factory Production.
						lb.	£
BUTTER.							
1932	..	..	..	..	..	93,312,321	4,589,769
1933	..	..	..	..	..	110,607,700	4,331,606
1934	..	..	..	..	..	133,402,841	5,673,176
1935	..	..	..	..	..	115,703,863	5,562,744
1936	..	..	..	..	..	95,659,684	5,085,709
1937	..	..	..	..	..	96,460,677	5,599,859
1938	..	..	..	..	..	143,837,760	8,810,000
1939	..	..	..	..	..	141,905,525	8,869,000
1940	..	..	..	..	..	*119,700,000	*7,480,000
CHEESE.							
1932	..	..	..	..	..	11,153,825	348,137
1933	..	..	..	..	..	13,937,788	385,501
1934	..	..	..	..	..	13,525,380	352,876
1935	..	..	..	..	..	10,018,618	282,430
1936	..	..	..	..	..	7,582,415	243,155
1937	..	..	..	..	..	10,012,447	334,918
1938	..	..	..	..	..	14,445,058	467,000
1939	..	..	..	..	..	15,202,608	491,550
1940	..	..	..	..	..	*11,600,000	*385,000

* Estimate only.

MINING.

A HIGHLIGHT IN INDUSTRY.

The international situation and the exigencies of war, whilst precluding the publication of mining statistics, intensify the necessity for greater production. The mining industry of Queensland has been providing one of Queensland's highlights for some years past, and indications are that there will be still further marked improvement. Queensland's gold yield in 1930 was barely 7,821 fine oz., valued at £33,224 standard. The Government, however, realising that the development of other activities invariably follows the prospector's pick, took a hand, encouraged the industry along sound lines, and gave effect to a policy that led to a phenomenal revival. By 1934, two years after the Labour Government had succeeded to office, the yield increased to over 115,000 oz., and since 1934 Queensland's consistency as a gold producer has been steadily progressive. From a comparatively obscure position it has become an important gold producer.

The big gold producers are Mount Morgan and Cracow. Mount Morgan Limited intends to mine 7,000,000 tons of ore by open-cut methods over a period of twenty years. This world-renowned mine furnishes evidence of what the State Government has done to help the mining industry. Mount Morgan is producing to-day as a result of the aid given by the Department of Mines. In 1932, the year the present Administration took office, a new company took control and the Government provided a loan of £15,000 to reopen the mine, which had been closed by the old company on the ground that to work it was unprofitable. As a result of this loan comprehensive metallurgical tests were carried out and the new company was formed. Extensions to plant and furnace, now on the point of completion, will dispense with the former practice of shipping concentrates overseas for treatment. As a result there will be reductions in costs, accelerated production of copper, and considerably more employment. The future of the mine, with its huge ore reserves, is bright.

Cracow, though a comparatively recent discovery, has distributed a tremendous amount of money since the Golden Plateau mine developed on a big scale. This mine is now treated as a low-grade proposition, and with its ample reserves of low-grade ore, and by the institution of greater milling facilities to handle the larger tonnages, is able to look forward to a profitable future.

Goldmining activities on the Charters Towers, Clermont, Wenlock, Claudie River, and numerous other fields continue to give satisfactory yields, and are attributable in no small degree to the policy of generous assistance to mining.

Assistance to Mining.

For several years past the ordinary Departmental funds provided for the assistance of mining have been supplemented by amounts made available to the Department of Mines from the Unemployment Relief Funds and from the Commonwealth Government for encouragement of mining and the relief of unemployment. Many instances can be cited in illustration of the successful application of such funds.

The consensus of opinion is that the Mines Department has been very liberal and enterprising in this direction, as well as in the provision of access to mining camps where there are fair prospects of development and in establishing small batteries in places where ore cannot be taken to existing mills. The Claudie Field, at Portland Roads, is an illustration of what can be done in that way. Paying tribute to the Mines Department for its construction of the Portland Roads jetty and its assistance in respect of the almost completed road inland, the representative of a Brisbane syndicate interested in the development of the Zenith mine, at Wenlock, said that he travelled from and to the coast with fair comfort and speed in a motor truck. At Kidston, on the Etheridge, a 15-head plant has made possible a community of some 200 people.

Numerous other small batteries in isolated localities have been erected by private parties with Governmental financial assistance.

All this means far more to Queensland than can be merely expressed in the pounds, shillings, and pence value of the production. It means increased employment on all sides, and in every industry. The number of men employed in the mining industry itself has substantially increased. The generous assistance already alluded to has been to a great extent responsible for a very satisfactory state of affairs. Care naturally is taken that expenditure is not authorised except in localities and in respect of undertakings with reasonable prospects of satisfactory returns. In this connection important developments have taken place on the Claudie River Goldfield, in the Cape York Peninsula, embracing the localities known as Iron Range, Scrubby Creek, and Packer's Creek, within a few miles of the coast at Portland Roads, Weymouth Bay, approximately 250 miles north of Cooktown—the nearest existing township in that part of the State.

Reef deposits have furnished the bulk of the production, but as alluvial mining provided a field for the profitable and regular employment of a large number of men the Department of Mines has evolved a comprehensive scheme of assistance which is going a long way towards bringing this class of mining to the fore again. Clermont, the Palmer, and Wenlock (formerly Batavia) immediately suggest themselves when alluvial mining is mentioned, but there are many areas throughout Queensland that are now receiving attention as a direct result of the Department's sympathetic encouragement.

Portable Mining Plants.

In an endeavour to help small parties of miners without capital to accelerate developmental work the Department of Mines purchased compressors and jack-hammer drilling plants at a total cost of just under £9,000. The machines acquired were costly ones, the cheapest being about £550 and others £770. One machine was allocated to Charters Towers. It is capable of using a medium-sized single drill or two small drills. The machine allocated to the Cloncurry district is capable of using one drill. A plant capable of working two drills was set apart

for Forsayth and a small one-drill plant for Clermont district. A two-drill plant has been allocated to Cracow and a similar one to Portland Roads. The plants are rented out to users at a nominal rent, and after they have carried out their programme of developmental work the machines are rented to the next applicant on the list. In this manner the plants go the round of prospectors who want them. Diesel-engine equipment goes with the compressors, which are under the control of the warden for the district.

Loans and subsidies by the Department of Mines are frequently given for the purchase of mining machinery, roads to give access to mining camps where there are fair prospects of development, and the establishment of small batteries in places where ore cannot be taken to a mill. For instance, a small battery has been installed at Packer's Creek, in the Portland Roads district. In addition to this battery, Gordon's battery is giving a great deal of assistance to the prospectors. Small batteries have also been installed by the Department at Sunnyside, in the Mackay district, Targinnie, in the Yarwun district, one in the Clermont district, and one at the Gilded Rose line of reef, in the Cloncurry district.

Access Roads to Fields.

In other directions, too, the Department of Mines has endeavoured to assist the mining industry as far as possible. For instance, the possibilities of the Cape York Peninsula, particularly that portion north of Coen and the Batavia River, have always been regarded as favourable, but exploration and development have been hampered by the inaccessibility of the region.

In a little over twelve months after discovery Mr. J. Gordon's mine, at Iron Range, produced gold worth more than £17,000, despite great transport difficulties. In October, 1936, about 250 square miles embracing these areas was proclaimed as the Claudie River Field. Following strong representations by the former Attorney-General (Mr. Mullan) the Government decided to erect a

substantial jetty at Portland Roads, and £6,000 was made available, £4,000 coming from funds made available by the Commonwealth for the assistance of mining and £2,000 from Unemployment Relief Funds.

It is anticipated that mining and settlement will advance with rapid strides, and that the Northern Peninsula will enjoy soon a measure of prosperity never previously attained.

Base Metal Production Improves.

Base metals have also played a prominent part in the economic regeneration of Queensland. Production for 1939, including coal, has been well maintained. The inauguration of zinc production at Mount Isa has been mainly responsible for the great increase in the value of the base metals produced in Queensland, but, apart from zinc, Mount Isa is producing more lead. Extensive plant additions have been installed, including a plant made in Queensland for the control of fume and dust in the smelter. In order to improve health conditions and efficiency at the smelter a baghouse—also Queensland made—has been constructed and this is treating all the furnace and part of the sintering machine gases. Among other things required for its construction were approximately 10,000 yards of woollen cloth woven in Queensland for the filtering bags employed in the process of lead-bearing dust and fume recovery. The efforts of all sections are continuously being directed towards safer working conditions and the elimination of accidents. The plant is most modern, there are ample supplies of ores, and prices for these metals should hold or improve.

Tin Miners Benefit.

Satisfactory results have been achieved by the Department's policy of encouraging the working of low-grade tin deposits. Tin miners generally have been greatly assisted with funds made available, mainly by this State, following the co-operation of the Commonwealth authorities with the State. Before the organised plan to aid the tin

miner the State Treatment Works at Irvinebank were crushing for approximately only three months of the year. To-day, the Irvinebank Treatment Works is working at full capacity and employing three shifts. Reduced costs of treatment have allowed of otherwise unpayable propositions being worked at a profit. Tin mining generally has made steady progress, and has contributed largely to the solution of the unemployment problem in Queensland.

With the aid of funds made available through the Department of Labour and Industry for unemployment relief for prospecting and for subsidies, the Mines Department has been enabled to extend its activities beyond those made possible by its ordinary vote and the funds made available under the Commonwealth-States scheme. The Herberton drainage scheme is a typical illustration of the Department's organised methods of assistance, and a number of men are now employed in ground previously unworkable.

Large Scale Tin Dredging.

In 1937 it was announced that tin dredging operations were to be undertaken by a company near Mount Garnet, in North Queensland, on a larger scale than ever before attempted in any dredging venture in this State. Certain difficulties in regard to the amalgamation of areas required for dredging on such a large scale had been overcome by Legislative action, and production of alluvial tin has been in progress since the beginning of 1939. An extensive boring campaign had previously determined the tin values over a wide area, and the Government gave financial assistance for this work. A seventeen years' programme is envisaged, and the undertaking should go far towards encouraging the introduction of capital for similar projects in Queensland, particularly in the northern parts of the State. The Government gave valued assistance in the prospecting work and in the testing of values, under the Department's prospecting assistance scheme.

War-Time Minerals.

War-time minerals are attracting much attention at the present time. Bauxite, the mineral from which aluminium is obtained, has been found at Tamborine, and the possibilities of the deposit are said to be interesting. A certain amount of antimony is being produced, wolfram and other tungstic metals are attracting attention in the known fields in North Queensland, there has been a certain development in production of manganese, and considerable activity has been noticeable in the production of scheelite in the Herberton district. Quicksilver, which comes from the cinnabar deposits at Kilkivan, is being produced in increasing quantities, magnesite is being produced in the Rockhampton and Bowen districts, and chromite, graphite, and mica are all providing avenues of interesting mining development.

The Aerial Survey.

The Aerial, Geological, and Geophysical Survey of Northern Australia, under the aegis of the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, carried out geological surveys on the Palmer, as well as in the Far North-West on areas photographed by the R.A.A.F.; and geophysical investigations were made to define the limits of the large coal seam at Blair Athol. Valuable information has been obtained, but as a result of war-time conditions, field operations are to cease at the end of 1940.

The operations of the Survey have furnished a wonderful demonstration of the use of the most modern methods of science—particularly of the combination of aerial photography and geophysical examinations in conjunction with the usual geological work—in the search for metalliferous deposits.

Inducements to Overseas Capital.

The Queensland Mining Acts offer special inducements to those wishing to obtain rights to explore large areas, goldmining leases being granted up to 100 acres, mineral leases up to 320 acres, and dredging claims up to 400 acres. The Government has made available extensive

areas known to be metalliferous for geological examination and prospecting under conditions which, while safeguarding the interests of the State, are singularly attractive to both *bona-fide* mining corporations and syndicates prepared to spend substantial sums on detailed geological surveys and other scientific prospecting methods. As a form of State encouragement, this not only ensures the expenditure of capital on *bona-fide* prospecting work and development, but offers inducements and removes obstacles previously in the way of the expenditure of overseas capital in Queensland.

Liberal Aid to Prospectors.

The Government keeps the interests of the small man in the forefront. Financial aid to miners and prospectors in Queensland is on a particularly liberal scale. This help is rendered by ordinary prospecting assistance from the Mines Department and under the Unemployment Relief Prospecting Assistance Scheme. Besides this assistance the mining industry is helped by loans and subsidies, grants for roads and buildings, and mining machinery advances. No wonder the consensus of Press and other authoritative opinion throughout Australia is that prospecting is being encouraged in Queensland, and that the State Government is giving conspicuous assistance to mining and development. The Chillagoe State Smelters on a conservative estimate benefit upwards of 4,000 persons. It is the only place in the State where complex ore can be treated. The policy of continuing operations at Chillagoe has been criticised, but the works have been responsible for much of the development that has taken place in the Gulf country. To-day ore supplies are drawn also from the Far Western districts, and thus indirectly a considerable amount of employment is provided for people in the North, and in the South, too, in that supplies are sent from the South to Chillagoe. The State Treatment Works, at Irvinebank, have been improved to such an extent that even the treatment of 0.6 per cent. tin ore is yielding a profit to the producers.

Search for Oil.

The search for oil in Queensland is proceeding, and a good deal of work is being done, some of the parties being very optimistic. Time will tell whether oil exists in commercial quantities, but while prospecting is going on there is always hope that something will be discovered. By agreement with the Queensland Government, the Shell Company of Australia Limited has commenced to explore an extensive area in South-West Queensland in which, it is hoped, petroleum deposits will be found in commercial quantities. It is expected that the exploration and investigation work will mean the expenditure of several hundred thousand pounds in the State, and it is gratifying that the Company's geological staff, which has made wide investigation, has selected Queensland as the State in which to carry out an intensive search for oil.

Considerable interest is also being manifested in the possibilities of extraction of mineral oil from shale by industrial process, and various shale deposits within the State are now being investigated.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF QUEENSLAND.

The future control of electricity supply is a subject which is exercising the minds of many Governments in many countries. That it should assume such great importance is natural when it is realised the great extent to which electricity for lighting, heating, and motive power has entered into the conveniences and necessities of modern life.

Realising that an economical supply of electricity not only reacts to the social benefit of the people but also has important definite economic advantages, the Labour Government in 1935 appointed a Royal Commission to examine the existing position of electricity supply in Queensland and to report on the measures necessary for the future economical supply of electricity and the economic extension of that supply.

The report indicated that it had become increasingly apparent that some form of central control was necessary to ensure that the development of the electrical supply industry should proceed on a properly co-ordinated basis so that electricity might be available at low cost, not in a few small and specially favoured areas, but over wide areas and to as many people as possible.

Giving effect to the report of the Royal Commission appointed by him, the Premier (Mr. W. Forgan Smith) introduced into Parliament and Parliament enacted "*The State Electricity Commission Act of 1937*," creating a central controlling and regulatory Commission, a summary of whose principal functions is—

- (1) Regulation and control of electricity to secure the safety of the public.
- (2) Regulation and control so as to secure a proper and sufficient supply of electricity.
- (3) Reviewing prices of electricity, both in regard to charges to consumers and in respect of public lamps.
- (4) Investigating applications for orders and licenses authorising a supply of electricity.
- (5) Regulating the details of plant and equipment in order to secure the ultimate co-ordination and efficient interconnection of electricity undertakings.
- (6) Approving of electrical apparatus and equipment, with the object of securing safety in service and prohibiting apparatus deemed to be unsafe.
- (7) Control of extensions and additions to electricity undertakings.
- (8) Advising electricity authorities on the expenditure, maintenance, and economics of their undertakings, with a view to securing efficiency therein.

A specific function imposed upon the Commission by the Government was the inauguration of an agreement with the City Electric Light Company Ltd. for a co-ordinated scheme of electrical development in a large portion of South-Eastern Queensland. The agreement was successfully negotiated and was approved by the Governor in Council in September, 1939.

Now, in an area of approximately 9,000 square miles, extending from the New South Wales border in the south to Gympie in the north, and from the coast to the Highfields Shire in the west, the company is the co-ordinating authority operating under the control of the Commission in the provision of electricity at uniformly low tariffs.

Long-period planning is a feature of this ambitious electricity scheme, and careful consideration has been given to an ordered programme of work that will be undertaken over the years. This is eminently desirable, for the increasing electrification of rural areas represents a trend that is important from social as well as economic standpoints. Indeed, a better balance between rural and urban policies may result from the lessons of the war period, and a major influence in obtaining the balance will be the widespread availability of the amenities which accompany electricity supply.

Salient features of the agreement are:—

- (1) The right of the Governor in Council to acquire the whole undertaking embraced in the agreement on 1st February, 1954, or on 1st February in any year thereafter, at a figure that will be just to both parties and will also enable the Government to operate it with immediate economic success. This result represents an immeasurable advantage to the State and to consumers inasmuch as the company, in exchange for the consolidated Order, has voluntarily surrendered the protection afforded it under its existing Orders in Council, which Orders made public ownership extremely difficult because of the legal and economic disadvantages created by the legislation under which they were granted.

- (2) The fixation of a maximum dividend on actual capital contributed by shareholders, which maximum dividend must not exceed by more than 2 per cent. the interest payable from time to time on Commonwealth stock. The principle of a fixed dividend rate on actual capital subscribed is introduced into Queensland for the first time in control of electricity supply, and is a considerable advance on the existing method, which permits an Electric Authority an earning capacity of a percentage not only on capital contributed but also on money invested from reserve funds. Under this new arrangement all reserve funds of the company will be invested in the business without this percentage charge to consumers, and the only call which shareholders will be permitted to make on reserve funds will be limited to amounts required to equalise dividends in the developmental period of activities when the immediate earning capacity of the company might be restricted.
- (3) All net earnings in excess of the sum required to pay dividends to shareholders will be mainly utilised for tariff reductions.
- (4) A time limit is fixed within which the whole area must be developed.
- (5) The price at which electricity will be supplied in the area outside the metropolitan district must not exceed present Brisbane prices plus 10 per cent. The new tariffs will represent large reductions in the tariffs now charged, and will enable electricity to be supplied in other districts at attractive rates.

Some idea of the remarkable progress which has been made by the company may be gleaned from the fact that within twelve months of the signing of the agreement the company has constructed 105 miles of main transmission line, 53 miles of secondary transmission line, and 53 miles

of low tension reticulation, whilst four main sub-stations and seventy-one pole transformer sub-stations have been erected. Moreover, in the rural districts, over 1,500 new consumers have been connected.

Another scheme which will make for the more orderly and progressive development of electricity supply is that embodied in the agreement successfully negotiated with the Toowoomba Electric Light and Power Company Ltd., whereby that company becomes the co-ordinating authority for the supply of electricity in the Darling Downs district, embracing Toowoomba, Warwick, Killarney, and Allora, under conditions similar to those applying to the City Electric Light Company Ltd. Here again the Governor in Council has the right to acquire the whole undertaking on 1st February, 1954, so that the Government, if it so desires, can take over at one time the whole of the planned electrification scheme covering the greater part of South-Eastern Queensland.

Electricity supply development has also been arranged in other parts of the State, including Bundaberg, Ayr, Gayndah, Childers, Inglewood, and Goomeri; in addition, proposals formulated by the Commission for the interconnection of various generating stations are being implemented. An important interconnection is that of the two Brisbane power houses, which will be invaluable in the event of damage to either power house, particularly from the defence point of view, but under normal circumstances the interconnection will bring about greater reliability of supply and improve the economics of the two power stations. Other important interconnections of generating systems include that of the Barron Falls hydro-electricity system with the Innisfail Electric Authority's supply and the "tie-in" of the latter with the power plant of the South Johnstone Co-operative Sugar Milling Association in the adjoining township. The completion of the latter arrangement is evidence that even large industrial concerns with which the Commission is not directly connected are willing to implement the Government's policy of utilising to the full all generating plant within the State.

The inauguration of a system of periodic inspections of consumers' electricity installations and the institution of a scheme of approval of electrical appliances and apparatus preventing the sale of unsafe or dangerous equipment have brought about a marked improvement in the standard of safety.

Reductions in electricity tariffs effected by the Commission since its inception in January, 1938, represent an approximate annual saving to consumers in Queensland of over £80,000.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

Extracts from Reports of Public Service Commissioner for the Years ended 30th June, 1939, and 1940.

Salaries Restoration.

Under "The Salaries Act of 1930" which came into operation on 15th September, 1930, reductions on salaries and wages were imposed as follows:—

	Percentage Reduction as from 15th September, 1930.	Percentage Reduction as from 1st July, 1931.
Employees receiving—		
£400 per annum and under ..	10	15
Over £400 and up to £600 per annum	11	16
Over £600 and up to £800 per annum	12	17
Over £800 and up to £1,100 per annum	13	18
Over £1,100 and up to £1,500 per annum	14	19
Over £1,500 per annum	15	20

By reason of the amendments to the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts made in 1934 and 1936 the Salaries Act ceased to operate in respect of all salaries-wages employees of the Government who were members of Industrial Unions and to whom Awards of the Court applied.

“*The Salaries Act of 1930 Repeal Act of 1938*,” which was assented to on 24th November, 1938, repealed “*The Salaries Act of 1930*” and provided that all salaries, within the meaning of the repealed Act (including classifications and increments), and/or allowances, should continue to be payable at the rates at, and in the manner in, which the same were payable immediately prior to the passing of the firstmentioned Act, until the Governor in Council or the Industrial Court, as the case may be, otherwise duly directed.

Since September, 1934, the Industrial Court has adjusted the Crown salaries-wages rates as follows:—

(a) *Wages Employees*—

- (i.) As from 1st October, 1934, the Court varied the wages rates of Crown wages employees to accord with the rates payable to all other wages employees under Awards of the Court. *Under this Award the Salaries Act reductions ceased to operate in respect of Crown wages employees.*
- (ii.) As from 1st April, 1937, 1st April, 1938, and 7th August, 1939, the Crown wages employees were granted the increases awarded by the Court in its basic wage declarations.

(b) *Salaried Officers*—

- (i.) As from 1st October, 1934, the Court granted a restoration of 25 per cent. of the reductions then operating in the case of officers whose salaries did not exceed £568 per annum, but provision was made that the minimum reduction in the salary rates of adult males would not be less than the Court's reduction in the basic wage—namely, £29 per annum. Following this determination the reductions in the salaries of adult male officers were—

Annual Salary Rates.		Reduction.
	£ £	
From	221 to 257	Basic wage reduction of £29 per annum.
„	258 „ 400	11½ per cent. (being a restoration of 3½ per cent.)
„	401 „ 568	12 per cent. (being a restoration of 4 per cent.)
Over	568 ..	16 to 20 per cent. (no restoration)

- (ii.) As from 1st July, 1936, the Court awarded a further restoration of 25 per cent. of the 1931 percentage reductions, but maintained the minimum basic wage reduction of £29 in the case of adult male officers. Under this Award—
- (a) Adult male officers whose salaries did not exceed £386 per annum were subject only to the basic wage reduction of £29 per annum.
- (b) Officers whose salaries exceeded £386 per annum were granted a restoration of 50 per cent. of the reductions imposed by the Salaries Act in 1931.
- (iii.) As from 1st April, 1937, the salaries of all adult male officers were increased by £10 per annum—the annual equivalent of the Court's increase of 4s. per week in the State basic wage.
- (iv.) As from 1st April, 1938, the salaries of all adult male officers were increased by a further £9 per annum—the annual equivalent of the Court's increase of 3s. per week in the State basic wage.
- (v.) As from 1st April, 1938, or 1st July, 1938, as prescribed in the variations of the several Awards, the Court awarded further increases in salaries by prescribing the following modified reductions:—
- (vi.) As from 7th August, 1939, consequent upon the increase in the basic wage, the Court awarded further increases in salaries by prescribing modified reductions as follows:—

Employees receiving—	Reduction per annum.
Under £220 per annum	£5
£220 and not exceeding £425 per annum ..	£10
Over £425 and not exceeding £1,000 per annum	4%
Over £1,000 per annum	5%

Employees receiving—	Reduction per annum.
Under £220 per annum	£1
£220 and not exceeding £425 per annum ..	£2
Over £425 and not exceeding £1,000 per annum	1%
Over £1,000 per annum	1½%

The salaries of certain of the higher-paid officers and part-time officers are not prescribed in awards of the Court, but the salaries of these officers have been adjusted to conform to the Court's determinations.

STATISTICS.

Crown Employees.

The total numbers of Government employees at 30th June, 1940, were as shown hereunder:—

Department or Service.	Males.	Females.	Total.
General Administrative Departments ..	3,949	984	4,933
Education Department	2,897	2,426	5,323
Police Force	1,457	2	1,459
Government Printing Office	280	112	392
Charitable Institutions and Mental Hospitals	514	470	984
	9,097	3,994	13,091
Business Undertakings—			
Railways	17,342	971	18,313
Mining Operations	586	4	590
Sub-Department of Forestry (wages employees)	1,187	..	1,187
Sub-Department of Irrigation and Water Supply (wages employees) ..	37	..	37
Dredge Service, Department of Harbours and Marine	124	..	124
State Government Insurance Office ..	368	133	501
Public Curator's Office	143	45	188
State Advances Corporation	84	20	104
Bureau of Rural Development ..	69	15	84
Total, Business Undertakings ..	19,940	1,188	21,128
Constructing Authorities—			
Railways	128	..	128
Main Roads Commission	4,049	..	4,049
Department of Harbours and Marine ..	99	..	99
Public Works Department	584	..	584
Public Estate Improvement Branch ..	733	..	733
Total, Constructing Authorities ..	5,593	..	5,593
GRAND TOTAL	34,630	5,182	39,812

The numbers of Government employees, excluding employees of the Railways Department, as at 30th June for each of years shown were:—

Year.	Number of Employees.			
	Consolidated Revenue Fund.	Trust Funds.	Loan Funds.	Total.
1930 ..	11,168	3,054	384	14,606
1932 ..	10,643	2,687	208	13,538
1934 ..	10,755	3,978	1,758	16,491
1936 ..	11,238	4,829	1,975	18,042
1938 ..	11,789	6,942	2,148	20,879
1940 ..	12,247	8,437	687	21,371

NOTE.—The number of employees at 30th June is not an absolute indication of the volume of employment during the year and should be read in conjunction with the particulars of salaries-wages expenditure.

The numbers of employees of the Railways Department as at 30th June for each year shown were:—

Year.	Number of Employees.		
	Consolidated Revenue Fund.	Loan Funds.	Total.
1930	16,318	2,068	18,386
1932	14,714	721	15,435
1934	15,262	2,123	17,385
1936	15,576	1,339	16,915
1938	16,574	1,195	17,769
1940	17,357	1,084	18,441

The total numbers of Crown employees have increased since 30th June, 1932, as follows:—

Fund.	Number of Employees.		
	At 30-6-32.	At 30-6-40.	Increase.
Consolidated Revenue Fund ..	25,357	29,604	4,247
Trust Funds	2,687	8,437	5,750
Loan Funds	929	1,771	842
Totals	28,973	39,812	10,839

The percentage increases were:—

Consolidated Revenue Fund .. 16.75 per cent.

All Funds 37.41 per cent.

Salaries-Wages Expenditure—All Funds.

The total annual expenditure on salaries and wages, including those paid to employees of the Railways Department, for the years shown, was:—

Year.	Consolidated Revenue Fund.	Trust Funds.	Loan Funds.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
1929-30 ..	7,737,260	934,942	1,083,088	9,755,290
1931-32 ..	5,837,515	618,453	279,922	6,735,890
1933-34 ..	5,917,619	788,264	548,679	7,254,562
1935-36 ..	6,751,384	1,073,474	970,020	8,794,878
1937-38 ..	7,606,604	1,306,169	907,138	9,819,911
1938-39 ..	8,008,671	1,943,494	776,748	10,728,913
1939-40 ..	8,345,172	2,233,499	711,675	11,290,346

Increases in Salaries-Wages Expenditure.

A survey of these figures will show that since the financial year 1931-32 the total salaries-wages expenditure has increased by £4,554,456. Particulars are:—

	Salaries-Wages Expenditure.		Increase.
	1931-32.	1939-40.	
	£	£	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund	5,837,515	8,345,172	2,507,657
Trust Funds	618,453	2,233,499	1,615,046
Loan Funds	279,922	711,675	431,753
Totals	6,735,890	11,290,346	4,554,456

Salaries-Wages Benefits.

The increased salaries-wages expenditure is due to the greater number of employees, and to the benefits which have been granted to Crown employees since the depression year of 1931-32.

BENEFITS.

The benefits which have been granted to Crown employees since 1932 may be summarised as follows:—

- (i.) Restoration of the 44-hour week by Legislative action—the Government employees affected being certain Railway employees, Mental and other Hospital employees, Police, Prison employees, and employees on Government steamers and dredges;
- (ii.) Restoration of access to the Industrial Court;
- (iii.) Repeal of the Salaries Act which imposed percentage reductions not only on salaried employees but on wages employees;
- (iv.) Payment of full Award rates including annual increases prescribed by the Court;
- (v.) Increase of the basic wage from £3 14s. to £4 4s. per week—an increase of 10s. per week, and the consequent adjustment of wages and salaries rates.

Basic Wage Declarations.

The following table shows the variations which have been awarded by the Court from time to time in the basic wage rates for adult male and female employees since the first declaration in 1921:—

Date Effective.	Adult Males. Per Week.	Adult Females. Per Week.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st March, 1921	4 5 0	2 3 0
1st March, 1922	4 0 0	2 1 0
28th September, 1925*	4 5 0	2 3 0
1st August, 1930	4 0 0	2 1 0
1st December, 1930	3 17 0	1 19 6
1st July, 1931	3 14 0	1 19 0
1st April, 1937	3 18 0	2 1 0
1st April, 1938	4 1 0	2 3 0
7th August, 1939	4 4 0	2 5 0

* Fixed by the Legislature.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

Summary of the Legislative and the Administrative actions of the Government in the Railway Department since the Labour Administration was appointed to office in June, 1932; and some of the results accruing therefrom.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY COVERING A PERIOD OF EIGHT YEARS (RAILWAYS).

—	1931-32.	1936-37.	1938-39.	1939-40.
Miles open to traffic ..	6,489	6,497	6,497	6,497
Capital	£35,550,179	£38,616,162	£39,751,258	£40,254,816
Earnings	£5,915,002	£6,949,677	£7,657,345	£7,936,986
Working expenses	£4,352,804	£5,335,373	£6,068,928	£6,254,858
Net capital return	£1,562,198	£1,614,304	£1,588,417	£1,682,128
Interest charge	£1,588,934	£1,606,432	£1,641,727	£1,662,121
Deficit	£26,736		£53,310	
Profit		£7,872		£20,007
Train miles run	10,881,196	12,846,622	13,822,846	14,090,419
Tonnage carried*	4,489,546	5,662,779	5,968,470	6,208,756

* Including the Kyogle line.

LOAN EXPENDITURE.

	£
1936-37	525,110
1937-38	636,137
1938-39	498,959
1939-40	503,558

ROAD TRANSPORT COMPETITION.

The Railway Department has been successful in fighting road transport competition and other forms of competition. Evidence of that success is contained in railway statistics and other relevant information. In 1939-40 the goods and livestock carried amounted to 6,208,756 tons, being an increase of 240,286 tons over 1938-39 and 1,719,210 tons over 1931-32. Further, the increase in the number of passenger journeys in 1939-40, as compared with 1931-32, was 3,836,778. These are interesting, illuminating, and pleasing statistics.

The Department has entered into several co-ordinated rail-road services, and these have been very successful. The increase in the number of passengers carried by these services, between 1936 and 1940, was approximately 84,000. During the same time the quantity of goods conveyed increased from 3,000 tons to 13,000 tons. The Railway Department has Commercial Representatives who greatly assist in regaining traffic and obtaining additional traffic.

State Transport Act of 1938.

During the 1932 Session of Parliament "*The State Transport Act of 1932*" was passed, and it repealed "*The State Transport Co-ordination Act of 1931.*"

The new Act made provision for a more satisfactory measure of co-ordination and control of transport services.

The Regulations were brought into operation early in April, 1933, and the amended Regulations were made operative from February, 1935.

During the 1938 Session of Parliament "*The State Transport Act of 1932*" was repealed by the passing of "*The State Transport Act of 1938.*" This latter Act makes provision for the better co-ordination and utilisation of transport facilities and provides for more effective control of transport generally.

TOURIST TRAFFIC.

Tourist traffic is of great importance to the Railway Department, which has appreciated the possibilities of unlimited expansion in this business. Queensland is not only a State of fertility, but also possesses a variety of scenic beauty surpassing that of any other State. It is a land of glorious sunshine, with a remarkably healthy climate. The Tourist Bureau and other branches of governmental activities have joined in assisting to promote tourist traffic, and evidence of the success achieved is shown by the fact that in 1929-30 tourist turnover was £6,600, and in 1939-40 it was £106,250. By posters,

folders, booklets, newspaper articles, photographs, window displays, radio broadcasts, picture theatre screening, special exhibitions, press advertising, and otherwise the Bureau is exerting its utmost efforts to further expand the tourist traffic.

DEFENCE CONTRACTS.

The Railway Department has already carried out a large amount of work for the Defence Department at the Ipswich Shops, and is making a variety of equipment for the various branches of the Forces.

Negotiations are approaching completion for the acceptance of an order for 500,000 25-pounder shells to be manufactured in a special annexe to be built at Ipswich.

The sum of £40,000 will be spent on the erection and equipment of a tool and gauge room at Ipswich; the major portion of this expenditure will be defrayed by the Commonwealth Government.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Early in 1939 a survey was made to ascertain what action was necessary for the protection of Departmental property and employees, and for the maintenance of essential services in the event of air raids. Detailed plans were laid down in regard to each large centre in vulnerable areas, together with an establishment at each place to provide for first aid, fire fighting, decontamination, gas detection, rescue, and demolition.

Men were specially trained for the various classes of work and in all 1,153 railway employees have received complete instruction in A.R.P. measures. Refresher lectures are given periodically so that the benefit of this training will not be lost.

Additional fire-fighting appliances and first-aid equipment were purchased and are held in reserve for use in the event of emergency.

IMPROVEMENT OF WORKSHOPS.

The Railway Department has spent a considerable amount of money in modernising the Workshops at Ipswich, Rockhampton, Townsville, and elsewhere. A substantial amount has been spent, too, in improving the equipment of these workshops. The expenditure on machinery for the four years, 1936-37 to 1939-40 (inclusive), amounted to £115,000; approximately £50,000 has been allocated for the year 1940-41.

ROLLING-STOCK CONSTRUCTION.

Engines.

Since 1st July, 1932, 56 locomotives (including 1 diesel locomotive), have been built and 21 are now under construction, as well as a large number of locomotive boilers.

The average tractive power of locomotives in use in the Queensland service increased from 14,800 lb. in 1929-30 to 16,000 lb. in 1939-40, due to the construction of heavier locomotives for both goods and passenger traffic.

Carriages.

During the same period 87 carriages and 3 goods brake vans were placed in service and a number of other vehicles altered for various purposes, such as tourist cars, recruiting trains, &c.; 29 rail motors were constructed, as well as 54 trailers, and several petrol cars were converted to the diesel type.

Three new Sunshine Express trains have been constructed during the last couple of years, and these have placed the Queensland Railways in the front rank so far as mail train services are concerned. The carriages are equal in appointments and comfort to any in the Commonwealth. Although it has not been possible to provide similar trains for all long distance travel, the Department is actively engaged in improving the various long-distance trains by utilising thereon reconditioned carriages, providing greater comfort for passengers. Two such trains—one on the Western Line and one on the Central-Western Line—have already been placed in traffic.

Wagons.

About 770 wagons were built, including rebuilds, during the 8-year period mentioned, and a large number is now under construction.

The building of this rolling-stock has provided work for many persons, both inside and outside the Department. Several hundred men, chiefly tradesmen and unskilled men who had been deflated, were placed in employment in the departmental workshops.

£1,380,396 was spent on new rolling-stock and repair work during the year 1939-40.

IMPROVEMENT OF PERMANENT WAY.

In the year 1939-40 relaying, regrading, and reconditioning works were carried out at a total cost of £70,500. For the four years ended June, 1940, £434,500 was spent on this work.

In the year 1939-40 the Department also expended the sum of £1,779,000 on maintenance of way and works in the improvement of siding and station accommodation, &c. For the eight-year period from 1932-33 to 1939-40 (inclusive) the Department spent £10,830,000 on the maintenance of way and works, and as a result of this expenditure the permanent way has been greatly improved and brought up to a highly efficient state.

ARBITRATION—WAGES STANDARD.

The Government restored to the railway employees the right of arbitration, which was withdrawn when the Moore Government was in power.

As a result, all wages employees as from 1st October, 1934, were placed on fixed rates of pay without any percentage deduction; salaried employees whose nominal salary (without deductions) did not exceed £568 per annum received relief to the extent of 25 per cent. of the percentage deduction then suffered. The Railway employees were granted an award which operated, as to

salaries and wages, from 29th July, 1935, and as to conditions as from 1st September, 1935. The Court has since given further relief to salaried employees in respect of the deductions from their salaries originally imposed by the Salaries Act.

Principal Provisions of New Awards, involving Extra Expenditure.

Wage increase to station-mistresses and gatekeepers (4s. per week in 1st and 2nd classes; 2s. per week in 3rd to 7th classes).

Increase from one week to two weeks per annum in annual leave of station-mistresses and assistants. (Does not apply to gatekeepers.)

Restoration of—

- (a) 1927 conditions to drivers and firemen for stabling locomotives, including fifteen minutes extra for C18 and C19 engines.
- (b) 1927 conditions to trainmen regarding payment for cancelled trains; guaranteed time at isolated depots; and away-from-home allowances.
- (c) $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour by which tradesmen's assistants' rate was reduced in 1931.
- (d) 1927 rate of pay to leading hands (increase of $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour).
- (e) 2s. per week tool allowance to woodworking tradesmen.
- (f) 1s. per day previously paid to appointed ambulance attendants.

Payment of full rate, in place of two-thirds rate, for time lost by gangs on account of wet weather.

Payment to the clerical staff for higher grade duties performed up to two weeks.

A provision was also inserted allowing enginemen on goods and mixed trains to have a meal between the fourth and fifth hours of duty.

In April, 1937, the basic wage was increased by 4s. per week for males and 2s. per week for females and juniors. Salaried officers received an increase of £10 per annum.

The 1935 award was extensively amended as from 1st September, 1937, and included provision for an increase of 1d. per hour to all drivers, firemen, and tradesmen; sick pay for wages staff up to 14 days at half-rates in each year, and an improved basis of payment for time worked on statutory holidays.

The 1937 award, amended to 3rd October, 1938, was further amended as from 11th December, 1939, and included provision for an increase of 1½d. per hour for foreman shunters and an increase of ½d. per hour for tradesmen and semi-skilled workers; an increase of 1s. per week in the minimum rate for assistant station-mistresses and gatekeepers; an increase in the annual leave for female camping quarters attendants, office cleaners, and watchmen from one to two weeks per annum.

In April, 1938, the basic wage was further increased by 3s. a week for senior males and 2s. a week for senior females.

An additional basic wage increase of 3s. per week for adult males and 2s. per week for adult females was granted as from 7th August, 1939.

The "*Salaries Reduction Act of 1930*" was repealed in 1938 and the Industrial Court is now unfettered in its discretion to fix wages and conditions.

RAILWAY SALARIES AND WAGES BILL.

	£
1931-32	3,341,129
1939-40	4,802,308

RESTORATION OF AUTOMATIC INCREASES.

Provision was made in the Estimates for 1933-34 for the partial restoration and in 1934-35 for the complete restoration of automatic increases which were denied to the Railway employees and the Public Service by the Moore Administration.

HOURS OF LABOUR.

Restoration of 44-hour Week.

Under the Moore Government the 44-hour week and 8-hour day legislation was repealed, but these reforms were restored by the present Administration on 1st July, 1933. The reduction in working hours resulted in a substantial increase in pay to the running men, who are paid on an hourly basis. As a result, also, of the reintroduction of the 44-hour week assistant station-masters and night officers, who were reduced when the 48-hour week was established, were restored to their former classifications.

On 1st October, 1938, a five-day week was brought into operation for the clerical staff in administrative offices.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES TO THE PERMANENT STAFF.

In August, 1933, Cabinet decided to appoint to the permanent staff those temporary employees who had been engaged continuously for twelve months, subject to the usual conditions of passing the prescribed medical examination and producing satisfactory evidence in regard to age. Since then a further number of temporary employees, who had been filling permanent vacancies, have been appointed to the staff.

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

Extended Leave and Retiring Allowance Regulation.

Under By-law No. 313, dated 9th August, 1934, provision was made to grant extended leave and retiring allowance to persons entering the service after 30th September, 1930. These privileges were withdrawn from new entrants to the service through the Railway Superannuation Act which operated from 1st October, 1930.

Prior to 20th December, 1934, after an employee had been granted six months' extended leave he had to complete a further continuous period of fifteen years' service since he was granted the six months' extended leave before he was entitled to an additional three months' extended leave.

Now, however, an employee can obtain an additional three months' leave on completion of forty years' service, without having to wait for a further fifteen years to elapse.

Prior to 20th October, 1936, employees who, on retiring from the service, were granted extended leave were paid therefor fortnightly. On completion of the extended leave payments they were paid their retiring allowances in lump sums. The practice now is that if the period of extended leave be such that it would expire within the financial year in which it is commenced, both extended leave and retiring allowance payments are made in lump sums at the time of ceasing duty. If, however, the period of extended leave extends beyond the close of the financial year, then payment for extended leave due up to the close of the year is made in a lump sum. The balance of extended leave payment and the retiring allowance are payable in a lump sum after 1st July in the next financial year.

Employment of Juniors.

The Railway Department has employed many hundreds of juniors, and approximately 2,000 additional lads have been employed in the past eight years.

Classification of Additional Drivers, Firemen, and Guards.

Since June, 1932, until 31st October, 1940, the following additional classifications of drivers, firemen, and guards have been made to cope with the increased traffic and to make up wastages brought about by various causes, such as retirements, deaths, &c.:—

Drivers	..	..	..	..	248
Firemen	..	..	..	..	311
Guards	..	..	..	..	215

Employment of Guards on Rail Motors.

It was decided that as from 1st July, 1933, guards were to be employed on rail motors hauling two or more trailers.

Cottages for Employees.

The Railway Department spent £52,000 in the construction of and improvements to fettle's cottages, from 1932-33 to 1939-40 (inclusive) At the end of the present financial year this sum will probably be increased to £60,000.

Railway Employees Serving with Defence and Overseas Forces.

Railway employees serving in the Naval, Military, or Air Force units overseas on ceasing duty in the Department are granted, on application, any recreation or extended leave due to them. In addition, the difference between the civil pay and pay received from the Defence Department (if less than the civil pay) is made up for a period of sixteen days to those who serve in the Militia.

The service of employees in the A.I.F. is recognised for—

- (a) Computing salary or wage payable on return to duty;
- (b) Computing extended leave, sick leave, recreation leave, and retiring gratuities;
- (c) Seniority.

The positions of railway employees who enlist for overseas service are being further protected. Their claim for promotion, their right to increased wages or salaries, and other privileges will all be carefully maintained.

Visit Home Passes and Privilege Ticket Concessions for Temporary Employees.

The Minister for Transport approved of temporarily regressed employees being granted passes to visit their homes at the week-end after they had served three months in the aggregate; provided excessive time was not lost by those concerned. This decision also covered the issue of "privilege" tickets. Previously these men were required to serve continuously for three months to obtain the concession.

Amendment of Railways Act.

“*The Railways Acts Amendment Act of 1934*,” which was assented to in November, 1934, established, *inter alia*, the right of employees to appeal against promotion (in addition to the right of appeal against punishment) . This right was removed from the statute by the 1929 Amending Act, which was brought in by the Moore Government.

Concessions to Railway Refreshment Room Employees.

“*The Railways Acts Amendment Act of 1934*” brought the Railway Refreshment Room employees under the operations of the Principal Act, thus placing them on the same footing as other Railway employees.

Restoration of Preference to Unionists in Railway Service.

Since the present Government assumed office periodical shows of Union tickets have taken place.

Abolition of Pooling.

Before the Forgan Smith Government came into power in 1932 the pooling system was in operation, greatly reducing working time and the wages of Railway employees. In the Ipswich Workshops married men were working seven days per fortnight and single men only three and a-half days per fortnight under the Moore Administration. That system was soon abolished and full-time working for employees has been in operation since that time. In addition to the abolition of pooling, the number of employees has been greatly increased. In 1931-32 there were 15,178, and in 1939-40 the number had risen to 18,025. Another reason for the increase was the greater tonnage handled, the total in 1939-40 being 6,208,756 tons, or about 1,719,210 more than in 1931-32.

Additional Working Time—Running Shed Employees.

In May, 1934, full time was granted to all tradesmen, and labourers assisting them, in Running Sheds, and full time is now being worked in all such sheds.

Political and Industrial Rights.

The present Government restored political and industrial rights to railwaymen; under the Moore Administration many of these rights were curtailed.

Full Time to Certain Sections.

Full time was restored to Clerical and Survey Sections, Chief Engineer's Branch, as from 21st May, 1934, and to employees in the Stores Branch on 17th May, 1934. From October, 1934, all cleaners throughout the service were given full working time. All employees of the Railway Advertising Branch have enjoyed full-time working since 4th May, 1936. In 1934 it was decided to discontinue the employment of intermittent relief labour for Railway works and to employ men through the Labour Bureau for such works as regrading, relaying, concrete roadways, ballast pits and quarries, and other Loan Works under Award rates and conditions. Formerly these men were employed on Railway work at less than the Award rates, and were without the protection of Award conditions.

Re-employment of Employees involved in Industrial Trouble in North Queensland in November, 1931.

On taking office the Labour Government, in accordance with an election promise, reinstated all those employees who were dismissed by the Moore Government after the 1931 industrial trouble.

Restoration of Privileges to Railway Employees involved in a Strike in North Queensland.

On 13th December, 1932, an Executive Minute under "*The Railway Strike and Public Safety Preservation Act of 1931*" was passed which embodied a recommendation that the terms and conditions of Executive Minute dated 3rd December, 1931 (reinstating certain employees who went on strike in the Northern Division), be varied in order to authorise the Commissioner to allow to all employees who became strikers in the Northern Division during November, 1931, all rights to recreation leave, future

gratuity, compensation, and retiring allowance, and all legal rights or privileges arising out of or pertaining to any such employment as though the services of such employees had been continuous.

Deletion of Endorsement re Industrial Strike, November, 1931, on History Cards of Employees.

Representations were made in regard to the entry on the history cards of Railway employees involved in the industrial dispute in North Queensland in November, 1931. After a perusal of the cards the Minister for Transport decided to delete the endorsement.

Reinstatement of Men involved in the Bowen Industrial Trouble in 1928.

The men involved in the industrial trouble at Bowen in 1928 and who were dismissed were re-employed and restored to their former grades.

Contributions to Railway Superannuation Fund.

"*The Railway Superannuation Act of 1930*" provided that the contribution to the fund by the employees for the first year should be 5 per cent. of earnings, the contribution for subsequent years to be $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. It was later approved by an Amending Act passed by the Moore Government to continue the contributions at the rate of 5 per cent. for a further twelve months. Under the provisions of a further amending Act passed in September, 1932, the contribution remained at 5 per cent.

Repeal of Railway Superannuation Scheme.

The present Premier promised during the election campaign to arrange for an actuarial investigation into the scheme.

This was done and it was decided as a result to repeal the Scheme. Employees ceased contributing on 21st May, 1933.

All contractual obligations entered into with those who retired on pension are being honoured by the Government, the amount for the year 1940-41 being £65,000. The total payment to superannuated employees since the Repeal of the Act has amounted to £616,370.

Use of Superannuation Contributions for Certain Specified Purposes.

Provision was made in the Act for employees who were mortgagors to the State Advances Corporation or the Agricultural Bank to use their contributions in reduction of their indebtedness. It was also provided that employees could use their contributions for the purpose of paying premiums on State Government Insurance life policies in their own names or to take out new policies.

Subsequent to the passing of the Superannuation Repeal Act the Government, by Order in Council, made it possible for employees who were not mortgagors with the State Advances Corporation prior to the passing of the Act to utilise their contributions for the purpose of painting their homes, effecting repairs or improvements thereto, or as a deposit for the erection of a home under the Workers' Dwellings or Workers' Homes Schemes.

Similar consideration was given to applicants who applied to the Agricultural Bank for a loan.

Arrangements also were made whereby employees could utilise their contributions for the repayment of loans contracted with the Public Curator prior to the passing of the Repeal Act.

Refund to Employees of Amount of their Contributions to the Railway Superannuation Fund.

Financial arrangements were made for the refunding to Railway employees of half the amount of their contributions to the Railway Superannuation Fund, and the refunds were paid in March, 1934, totalling approximately £175,700. On 16th August, 1934, Cabinet approved of the balance of the contributions to the Fund being refunded with interest added, and payment of approximately £189,300 was made in that month.

On 27th March, 1934, Cabinet approved of the refund of contributions to those who contributed to the Superannuation Scheme for less than twelve months. This involved a payment of £608 to 152 ex-employees.

Saving to Railway Employees by Abolition of Superannuation Scheme.

As a result of the cessation of contributions to the Superannuation Fund, Railway employees, calculated on the basis of the number of permanent employees at the time of the repeal of the Act, have saved at the rate of approximately £156,000 per annum.

Additional Government Expenditure—Superannuation Scheme.

To meet the pensions of those ex-employees who secured the benefits of the Railway Superannuation Scheme it was necessary to provide for £85,000 on the Estimates for 1933-34, £82,000 for 1934-35, £81,000 for 1935-36, £82,000 for 1936-37, £76,970 for 1937-38, £73,400 for 1938-39, £71,000 for 1939-40, and £65,000 for 1940-41. In addition, approximately £55,000 was set down on the 1933-34 Estimates to meet applications by employees to the State Advances Corporation, Agricultural Bank, and State Government Insurance Office under the provisions of the Repeal Act.

Transfer and Promotion of Maintenance Staff Employed on Queensland Section of South Brisbane-Kyogle-Grafton Railway.

As the result of "*The Queensland Border to South Brisbane Railway Management Amendment Act of 1936*," which received Royal Assent on 11th December, 1936, the maintenance employees engaged on the Queensland section of the South Brisbane-Kyogle-Grafton Railway are now eligible for transfer to and promotion in the Queensland service. Prior to the passing of this Act their conditions of service as employees of the Commissioner for Railways, New South Wales, were such that their opportunity for transfer and promotion was confined to the section of line between South Brisbane and the Border Tunnel.

FREIGHTS AND FARES CONCESSIONS.

The present Government has given generous freight concessions to industries, the total value thereof from 1st July, 1932, to the end of January, 1941, being approximately £2,000,000. The major portion of these concessions was a charge on the Railway Department.

Concession Fares for Women and Children of the West Travelling to the Coast.

In addition, special low fares have been granted, for many years (and which were authorised by the Theodore Government in 1923), to women and children to enable them to come from the West and visit the Coast once a year. The number of women and children who have taken advantage of this great concession was approximately 250,000, and the cash value of the concession was approximately £500,000.

Concession Fares to Soldiers.

Special concessions have been made to soldiers by way of issuing free passes to men enlisted for overseas service once monthly to visit their homes, and also to soldiers in camp who receive a concession of single fare plus one-third for return journey. There are also special cheap fares from certain important military camps to adjoining cities.

Mount Isa Rates.

In order to ensure the continuation of operations at Mount Isa, where approximately 1,500 men are in continuous employment directly through the working of the mines, the Government agreed, on account of the unprecedented low value of lead, to adopt a scale of rates for coal, coke, lead, bullion, and zinc concentrates varying in accordance with the London price of lead.

This results in a substantial concession whilst the price of lead is low, but will mean rates higher than those originally quoted when the price of lead reaches £22.

To enable the company to produce zinc concentrates for export, a reduced rate, varying with the London price of zinc, has been quoted for the conveyance of zinc concentrates from Mount Isa to Townsville.

Consequent on the metal quotations on the London Exchange having ceased as a result of the International situation, freights are based on prices which have been established by the British Government as maximum quotations for bullion, and in the case of concentrates on the fixed London price for foreign zinc.

As a further inducement to the company to expend new capital on the installation of another unit to further increase production, it has been decided that for traffic in excess of the following tonnages per annum, viz.:—

					Tons.
Lead	bullion	..	..	..	35,000
Coal	..	..	..	..	25,000
Coke	..	..	..	..	25,000
Zinc	..	..	..	..	80,000

the maximum rates shall be those applicable when the average metal prices are within the £20-£22 zone.

Reduction of Rates on Wool.

As a measure of relief to the pastoral industry the Government reduced the freight charges on wool by 10 per cent. as from 22nd June, 1933, and by a further 10 per cent. as from 1st August, 1935. The rates were increased by 5½ per cent. as from 1st November, 1938.

Starving Stock Rebates.

The 25 per cent. rebate in freight rates on starving stock shifted for the purpose of agistment but subsequently returned to their original pastures and the 40 per cent. rebate on fodder for starving stock have been considerably amplified as follows:—

From 25th March, 1935, starving sheep sold from drought-stricken properties or removed to agistment country were allowed further concessions as follows:—

	Per cent. Rebate.
When conveyed up to 500 miles or in quantities less than full train loads of 14 N and 1 NB	25
When conveyed in train loads of 14 N and 1 NB for distances over 500 miles—	
501 to 600 miles	30
Over 600 miles	35

These rebates applied both on the forward and return journeys or on the forward journey only if the stock were disposed of for the purpose of reducing the number of stock on drought-stricken properties.

Where necessary to remove the whole of the stock from drought-stricken properties the horses accompanying the stock were allowed the same rebate as the stock they accompanied.

From 1st April, 1935, starving stock which it was necessary to remove to agistment country, and which were to be returned to original pastures, were allowed a rebate of 35 per cent. each way irrespective of distance or the number of wagons forwarded. Starving stock not to be returned to original pastures were allowed the rebates which came into operation on 25th March, 1935.

From 25th March, 1935, the rebate on fodder for starving stock was increased from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. On 8th October, 1936, this concession was extended to fodder purchased by dairy farmers who in normal seasons do not purchase fodder.

As from 18th November, 1940, it was approved to rail salt, stock licks, blood meal, &c., at fodder for starving stock rates when such consignments are being carried to feed starving stock.

Containers for Fodder for Starving Stock.

As from 12th November, 1936, free conveyance was allowed of empty drums or casks consigned to sugar-mills for the purpose of transporting molasses for feeding starving stock in drought-stricken areas.

Water for Starving Stock.

For some years a rebate of 50 per cent. off the freight on water railed for starving stock was allowed. This rebate was increased to 75 per cent. from 12th November, 1936, but the 50 per cent. rebate has been reverted to from 1st June, 1937. In a few instances, however, the 75 per cent. rebate has been allowed since that time.

Rebate on Old Cows and Piker Bullocks.

To permit of the treatment at meatworks of old cows and piker bullocks it was decided on 25th May, 1936, to allow a rebate of 20 per cent. on such consignments conveyed distances over 400 miles. This concession was discontinued from 31st December, 1937, except in cases of stock railed from places west of Julia Creek.

Sows for Breeding Purposes.

As from 20th February, 1936, a rebate of 20 per cent. has been allowed off the freight on sows declared on the consignment note to be for breeding purposes.

Sheep for Export Overseas—Freight Rebate.

For the purpose of encouraging an export trade in live sheep a rebate of 20 per cent. was granted in November, 1932, on live fat sheep (excluding rams) exported overseas.

Sheep for Boiling-down Purposes.

To enable pastoralists to dispose of sheep otherwise unsaleable a rebate of 20 per cent. in freight charges on such sheep was granted from 1st July, 1933.

Freight Rebate on Breeding Bulls.

To assist in replacing drought losses it was decided in December, 1932, to grant a temporary freight rebate of 50 per cent. on breeding bulls from the Rockhampton district to the North-West.

Subsequently this concession was extended to all districts of the State.

The concession ceased to operate as from 30th September, 1937, excepting to places west of Hughenden.

Rebate on Stallions for Breeding Purposes.

On 30th May, 1934, it was decided to grant a rebate of 20 per cent. off the freight on stallions for breeding purposes.

Freight Reduction on Stud Pigs.

In August, 1933, it was agreed to grant a 20 per cent. reduction in the freight rate on stud pigs transported by rail under the Better Boar Scheme.

Store Cattle.

A rebate of 20 per cent. has been allowed on store cattle for some years, but from 19th December, 1933, the rebate on store cattle forwarded from the Buffalo Fly Area in train loads of 14 K and 1 KB was increased from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. for such cattle when conveyed distances of 600 miles and over. From 1st May, 1934, store cattle rebates in train loads of 14 K and 1 KB were amended as follows:—

				Per cent.
401 to 500 miles	..	..	..	25
501 to 600 miles	..	..	..	30
Over 600 miles	..	..	..	35

Sheep and Cattle for Restocking.

From 1st August, 1935, a rebate of 35 per cent. was allowed off the freight on sheep and cattle railed for the purpose of restocking necessitated by drought losses.

This concession ceased to operate on 30th September, 1937, excepting to places west of Hughenden, to which it operated until 31st December, 1937.

Attendants Accompanying Stock.

The concession in fares to attendants travelling in charge of small lots of stock—i.e., two eight-wheeled wagons—was amplified by the granting of single fare for the return journey.

The issue of drovers' passes was extended to apply to 2K wagons of horses as from 14th June, 1934, and to 2K wagons of stud bulls railed 1,000 miles and over as from 9th July, 1936.

Rate for Sheep Licks.

Sheep licks, condimental food for stock, rock salt, and crude salt for stock feeding were classified "A" class, minimum 2 tons; and "B" class, minimum 2s. 4d. per consignment. From 1st September, 1937, however, the rates on these commodities were reduced to "A" class, minimum 1s. 7d. (now 1s. 9d.) per consignment.

From 21st July, 1938, coarse salt used solely as stock fodder has been charged "A" class rate, minimum 2 tons, instead of truckload minima, as formerly.

Arsenic for Use of Settlers.

As from 10th September, 1936, a reduction was made in the rate on small quantities of arsenic railed up country to settlers for use as sheep or cattle dip mixture and for eradication of blow-fly or for the destruction of timber.

Rates for Cream.

From 1st August, 1934, considerable reductions in the rates for cream were made when the price paid by co-operative dairy associations for commercial butter was below 1s. per lb. in the winter months and 10d. per lb. during the summer months.

Sawn Junk for Export.

In order to enable the Queensland timber trade to compete with imported hemlock, rebates were allowed on sawn junk exported to Southern States.

On sawn junk exported by country mills a rebate of the difference between the "A" and "M" class rates was allowed, whilst city mills were allowed the difference between the log timber and "M" class rates on log timber necessary to produce sawn junk for export.

This concession operated from the 1st July, 1933, and continued until 16th October, 1940.

Freight Rebates on Flour, Bran, Pollard, and Wheatmeal.

From 21st November, 1933, it was decided to allow the following rebates on flour, bran, and pollard in truckloads from flour mills to Northern ports:—

			Per ton.
			s. d.
To Rockhampton and Mackay	..	..	7 6
To Bowen and Townsville	..	..	10 0
To Innisfail and Cairns	..	..	15 0

(These rebates were extended to wheat.)

From 12th June, 1934, the rates for flour, bran, and pollard to Townsville, Innisfail, and Cairns were further reduced by 8s. per ton.

Abolition of Surcharge—Mulgowie Branch.

For some years a surcharge operated on goods conveyed over the Mulgowie Branch Railway, but on 1st August, 1934, this surcharge was abolished.

Fruit Distribution Scheme.

To improve the distribution of fruit from grower to consumer, a scheme was introduced at the end of January, 1935, whereby station-masters in Western and Northern districts accepted orders for fruit. A flat rate of freight of 1s. per half-bushel case (since increased to 1s. 1d.), irrespective of distance, was adopted to assist in popularising this arrangement, and this rate now has general application whether the fruit be consigned from growers, merchants, or others.

It was decided that as from 29th September, 1938, the freight on a consignment of fruit or vegetables not exceeding 1 bushel size (56 lb.) when conveyed by goods or mixed train should not exceed 2s. 2d.

A maximum charge of 1s. 1d. introduced for pineapples in half-bushel, bushel, and bushel and a-half size cases was operative from 13th February, 1939, to 23rd March, 1939, and from 29th June to 31st October, 1939.

From 29th August, 1939, and continuing until 31st October, a special freight of 1s. 1d. per container on the forward journey and 6d. for the return of the empty container was applied on dry ice containers of strawberries railed from Brisbane to Western districts of Cloncurry, Richmond, Hughenden, and Longreach.

This arrangement was also applied on deciduous fruit in dry ice containers railed to these districts.

Commencing on 16th January and continuing until 18th March, 1940, a maximum rate of 1s. 1d. per bushel case was charged on single-case consignments of apples forwarded by goods train from stations Bald Mountain to Dalveen, inclusive (including stations on the Amiens branch), to any station in Queensland.

Seed Wheat.

The freight usually chargeable on seed wheat is "A" class, but it has been agreed to charge "M" class rate (minimum 1 ton) on seed wheat railed to the Callide and Dawson Valley Branches. This concession was allowed for twelve months from April, 1937, and still operates.

Feed Wheat.

From 14th September, 1939, it was decided to charge "M" class rate, plus 20 per cent., minimum charge 1s. 9d. per consignment, on "feed" wheat usually carried at "A" class rate.

This concession was allowed for a period of two months.

Rate for Horses.

In January, 1939, it was decided that two- or three-stall horse boxes would be supplied and charged at the full "IC" rate plus 25 per cent. for each horse box when conveyed solely by goods train.

Adjustment of Rates and Fares.

An adjustment of freights and fares became effective as from 1st November, 1938.

Secondary Hardwoods.

A 40 per cent. freight rebate has been applied from 1st February, 1939, on red tulip oak, water gum, and yellow walnut logs railed from Cairns timber districts to Cairns to assist the plywood industry.

Centre Measurement of Log Timber.

In order to stimulate the timber trade the Department agreed by way of a trial to accept centre measurement instead of average measurement of logs as previously. This is equivalent to approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. concession in freights. In addition, the surcharge of 15 per cent. on oak logs and 25 per cent. on rosewood logs has been abolished.

SUNDRY NOTES—FINANCIAL AND OTHERWISE.

Premiers' Plan Reviewed.

On accession to office as Premier, the Hon. W. Forgan Smith took part in a Premiers' Conference in June, 1932, when the Premiers' Plan was reviewed.

The original motion of Prime Minister Lyons was—

“That this Conference affirms the adherence to the Premiers' Plan and undertakes to meet interest and obligations and to continue progressively to reduce budget deficits.”

By the advocacy of the Labour Premier, the final motion of the Conference was—

“That this Conference affirms its adherence to the principles of the Premiers' Plan of 1931, and undertakes to meet interest obligations, to continue progressively to reduce budget deficits, and to *conduct a public policy with a view to reviving industry so as to restore normal employment to those of our citizens who have neither work nor wages.*”

In other words, while the Plan of 1931 was successful in effecting a reduction of the cost of Government, it lacked in measures necessary to restore industry and commerce by reviving the purchasing power of the community. By the efforts of Labour's Premier the Plan of 1931 was amended in that the amended Plan of 1932 definitely recognised that there was incumbent upon the Commonwealth and States a duty to provide work and wages to our citizens who were out of employment.

Financial Legacy Left by Moore Government.

During the past three financial years (*i.e.*, 1929-30, 1930-31, 1931-32) under the Moore Government, the actual extent by which revenue deficits accumulated amounted to £4,338,975, having regard to the transfers from Loan and Trust Fund Accounts to the Revenue Account during the

period under review. But for these transfers the recorded deficits appearing in the accounts as published by the Treasurer would have been augmented to the extent which the transfers effected.

Comparative Statement—Queensland and Other States.

The following table shows the actual revenue deficits for 1930-31, 1931-32, with the percentage increase or decrease in the deficit over the period:—

	Deficit 1930-31.	Deficit 1931-32.	Increase or dec rease.	Increase or decrease per cent.
	£	£	£	
*New South Wales ..	9,668,004	13,570,396	†3,902,39	†40·36
Victoria	2,454,198	1,607,850	‡846,348	‡34·49
Queensland	842,044	2,075,180	†1,233,136	†146·45
South Australia ..	1,813,857	1,063,359	‡750,498	‡41·38
West Australia ..	1,420,539	1,557,896	†137,357	†9·67
Tasmania	245,104	271,614	†26,510	†10·82

* Includes interest paid by Commonwealth Government.

† Denotes increase.

‡ Denotes decrease.

These figures indicate the alarming extent to which the finances of the State were drifting under the Moore anti-Labour Government, and prompted, no doubt, the rebuke which the anti-Labour Assistant Federal Treasurer felt constrained to administer to the anti-Labour Premier and Treasurer at the Loan Council meeting and Premiers' Conference in Melbourne in January, 1932, as reported in *The Brisbane Courier* of 2nd February, 1932.

“The Assistant Federal Treasurer expressed the opinion during the discussion that the deficit of Queensland was larger than it should be . . . and that the State was retrogressing rapidly and was heading for a very large deficit.”

Compared to the preliminary deficit of £2,750,000—which was the figure computed when the Labour Government took office, based upon expenditure and revenue on the basis of the financial year 1931-32—the anticipated deficit of £1,490,868 which Labour's Budget forecasted was a decrease of £1,259,132, or 45 per cent.

NOTE.—The actual deficit for the financial year 1932-33 was £1,554,444, or a decrease of £1,195,556, or 43 per cent.

Bridging the Gulf.

It was inevitable that additional revenue had to be secured, and the Government's proposals for securing additional revenue were framed so that the burden of taxation may fall on those best able to bear it.

During the last year of the anti-Labour Administration no attempt whatever was made to bridge the financial gulf, owing, no doubt, to the impending State General Elections. *In fact*, the anti-Labour Administration remitted the super land tax assessments for the financial year 1931-32, under which approximately £140,000 revenue was allowed to lapse.

The securing of additional revenue by the Commonwealth and State Governments was just as much a part of the Premiers' Plan as economy in Governmental expenditure; and the super tax was accordingly imposed for financial years 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, and for subsequent years.

Note on the Finances.

(See Budget of Hon. Premier and Treasurer as presented to Parliament on 25th September, 1934, and 8th October, 1935).

1933-34.

	£
Estimated deficit for 1933-34	1,848,402
Actual deficit for 1933-34	1,128,531

This deficit is £426,000 less than the deficit of 1932-33—which was £1,554,444—and is £947,000 less than the deficit of 1931-32—which was £2,075,180.

These reductions demonstrate that the Government is carrying out its intention of a progressive approach to financial equilibrium.

Deficit of 1933-34 is a reduction of 27·39 per cent. on the deficit for 1932-33. This percentage is exceeded only by one State—Tasmania.

Exchange cost £853,409, and contributions to the Public Debt Sinking Fund amounted to £411,137. Without these charges the transactions for 1933-34 would have resulted in a surplus of £136,015.

1934-35.

The deficit in the Revenue Account for financial year 1934-35 was £564,612, an improvement of £563,919 in the budgetary position of the previous year.

The contribution to the Public Debt Sinking Fund last year was £448,663, almost equal to the deficit. The net cost of Exchange was £824,949.

1935-36.

Estimated Deficit	..	..	£1,162,373	(£1,300,000
Actual Deficit	..	..	£741,815	agreed by Loan Council.)
Improvement	..		£420,558	

1936-37.

In 1936-37 the deficit in the Revenue Account was £280,190, an improvement of £461,625 compared with the 1935-36 budgetary position.

In this financial year £537,240 was contributed to the Sinking Fund, while Exchange absorbed £810,516.

1937-38.

This year saw a further reduction of the deficit in the Revenue Account to £228,492, against an estimated deficit of £330,778.

1938-39. }
1939-40. } (See pages 102, 103.)

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

Bureau of Industry Statistics.

QUEENSLAND TOTAL WORKING POPULATION.

Numbers in Work and Percentage of Unemployment.

Period.	Numbers in Work.				Percentage of Unemployment.
	Employers and Workers on own Account.	Em- ployees.	Working for No Wages.	Total.	
<i>Average—</i>					
1926-27	83,000	212,900	8,900	304,800	9.4
1927-28	84,600	212,400	9,000	306,000	10.1
1928-29	86,300	204,400	9,100	299,800	13.0
1929-30	88,000	202,800	9,200	300,000	13.6
1930-31	89,700	190,000	9,300	289,000	17.7
1931-32	91,400	181,300	9,400	282,100	20.3
1932-33	93,100	184,600	9,400	287,100	19.4
1933-34	94,700	194,700	9,600	299,000	17.3
1934-35	96,800	214,500	9,700	321,000	13.0
1935-36	98,900	223,500	9,900	332,300	11.7
1936-37	100,900	234,500	10,100	345,500	10.0
1937-38	103,000	245,800	10,300	359,100	8.3
1938-39	105,100	257,700	10,500	373,300	6.3
1939-40	106,800	264,500	10,600	381,900	5.0
<i>Three Months Ended—</i>					
June, 1940	107,000	267,500	10,700	385,200	3.8
July	106,800	265,100	10,700	382,600	3.8
August	106,700	262,800	10,700	380,200	3.9
September	106,700	262,200	10,700	379,600	3.9
October	106,800	263,000	10,700	380,500	3.9
November	106,900	263,700	10,800	381,400	4.0

The above figures, for the period since September, 1939, take account of enlistments. Enlisted men have been excluded from the estimates of employment and numbers available for work, and adjustments have been made to allow for the effect on employment of home-defence training.

The percentage of unemployment shown above supercedes the old "Trade Union Unemployment" figures, which are not comprehensive enough to give a satisfactory basis for comparisons between States. For the Commonwealth as a whole they may be taken as a rough indication of the trend. It must be remembered that these Commonwealth percentages relate to the *Employed* population only, while the Queensland percentages shown above relate to the whole *Working* population. The employed population represents about 70 per cent. of the working population of the Commonwealth.

CONTRIBUTORS TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

The above table covers all employment. The following one is limited to contributors to the Unemployment Insurance Fund. The numbers are in terms of full-time employment and in thousands. The figures for past years have been slightly revised since they were last published.

The total for the three months ended November, 1929, was 134,121 (i.e., 134). The percentages are decreases (—) or increases (+).

Particulars.	Three Months Ended November—							
	1931.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Contributors ('000) ..	110	135	143	149	156	165	170	168
<i>Percentage Movements :</i>								
On Previous Year ..	—11	+15	+ 6	+ 4	+ 5	+ 6	+ 3	— 1
On 1929	—18	+ 1	+ 7	+11	+16	+23	+27	+25
On 1931 .. ..	..	+23	+30	+35	+42	+50	+55	+53

There were 34,300 more contributors than during the same months in 1929, and 58,400 more than during the same period of 1931.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.

These are sample statistics of employment, covering about 60 per cent. of all employment contributing to unemployment insurance.

Class of Employment.	Average, Three Months, September to November.			Per Cent. Increase in 1940—	
	1938.	1939.	1940.	on 1938.	On 1939.
*Factory	23,187	23,957	25,302	9·1	5·6
Retail Trade	8,437	8,680	8,818	4·5	1·6
Wholesale Trade.. .. .	4,509	4,638	4,521	0·3	— 2·5
Miscellaneous Trade	1,944	2,132	2,229	14·7	4·5
Banks and Insurance (Private)	4,125	4,266	4,220	2·3	— 1·1
Total Trading	19,015	19,716	19,788	4·1	0·4
†Government and Municipal ..	44,415	45,234	45,393	2·2	0·4
‡Building and Construction ..	10,561	10,296	9,171	— 13·2	— 10·9

* Representative factories, and all government and municipal workshops. The figures cover about 40 per cent. of all factory employment.

† Statistics of government and municipal employment are more readily available, and this class is therefore in greater proportion in the table than in fact. The figures exclude those engaged on new works.

‡ This class includes those on governmental and municipal new works.

THE BUSINESS AND PROSPERITY INDEX—QUEENSLAND.

(Percentages of pre-depression conditions.)

Averages for Years.

1928	..	..	100·5	1934	..	..	92·3
1929	..	..	99·9	1935	..	..	95·1
1930	..	..	88·6	1936	..	..	97·2
1931	..	..	82·4	1937	..	..	98·7
1932	..	..	83·6	1938	..	..	101·5
1933	..	..	84·8	1939	..	..	104·5
1940 (to October)	..	..	..	..	..	..	107·9

Recent Months (three months ended each month).

May	..	..	107·8	August	..	..	109·5
June	..	..	108·9	September	..	..	109·7
July	..	..	109·0	October	..	..	109·7

The Trend : Both the decline in the percentage of unemployment and the rise in the business index are tending to flatten out as a state of " full employment " is approached—that is to say, as unemployment falls towards the minimum figure of some 3·5 per cent. of the total working population. This minimum covers the unemployment of seasonal workers and of men in the process of transferring from one job to another. The calculation of unemployment excludes a substantial number of men deemed not to be employable at work of the sort usually available, even though such men register themselves as unemployed at labour exchanges.

SHARE PRICES INDEX—BRISBANE.

Averages for Years.

Year.	Index.	Year.	Index.
1929	.. .. 106·5	1935	.. .. 101·6
1930	.. .. 83·2	1936	.. .. 104·4
1931	.. .. 69·6	1937	.. .. 106·9
1932	.. .. 76·5	1938	.. .. 105·3
1933	.. .. 87·2	1939	.. .. 102·5
1934	.. .. 100·5	1940 (to November)	100·2

BUREAU OF INDUSTRY STATISTICS.

SAVINGS BANK RETURNS.

Amount to Credit of Depositors' Accounts—Queensland.

Date.	Total.	Per Head Population.
	£'000.	£ s. d.
30 June, 1932	22,952	24 9 6
„ 1933	23,453	24 15 0
„ 1934	24,834	25 18 7
„ 1935	26,196	27 1 3
„ 1936	27,132	27 13 3
„ 1937	27,304	27 10 5
„ 1938	28,206	28 2 4
„ 1939	29,045	28 11 6
„ 1940	28,252 (a)	27 13 2
30 Nov., 1939	29,887 (a)	29 8 4
„ 1940	29,624 (a)	29 0 4

(a) Excluding War Savings Certificates.

NATIONAL INCOME—QUEENSLAND.

Gross National Income Produced.

Year.	Total.	Per Person Employed.
	In £ Millions.	£
1927-28	134.1	438
1928-29	127.8	426
1929-30	125.0	417
1930-31	109.5	379
1931-32	97.9	347
1932-33	99.6	347
1933-34	108.3	362
1934-35	116.2	362
1935-36	123.0	370
1936-37	132.1	382
1937-38	143.5	400
1938-39	148.3	397
1939-40	150.4 (a)	394 (a)
1940-41	161.3 (b)	419 (b)

(a) Estimates only.

(b) Rough Estimates only.

NET VALUE OF PRODUCTION—QUEENSLAND.
For Separate Industries.

Year.	Agriculture.	Pastoral	Dairying	Forestry.	Mining.	All Primary	Manufacturing	Total.
	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
1928-29	10,395	13,156	6,512	1,797	1,402	34,099	16,752	50,851
1929-30	11,045	11,978	6,031	1,429	1,666	33,399	16,130	49,529
1930-31	10,211	11,916	5,842	1,122	1,149	30,914	13,528	44,442
1931-32	9,683	9,100	5,059	834	1,147	26,485	12,133	38,618
1932-33	8,944	9,880	4,093	1,314	1,267	26,034	12,757	38,791
1933-34	9,704	12,833	4,627	1,334	1,747	30,778	13,712	44,490
1934-35	9,018	11,004	5,799	1,989	2,100	30,463	14,624	45,087
1935-36	9,699	11,561	5,869	2,076	1,834	31,657	15,683	47,340
1936-37	10,706	14,112	4,957	2,186	2,408	35,329	17,185	52,514
1937-38	11,264	15,364	7,443	2,514	3,043	40,306	18,603	58,909
1938-39	11,615	14,881	9,878	2,362	2,492	41,883	19,301	61,184

STANDARD OF LIVING—QUEENSLAND.

Year.	Real National Income per Breadwinner.				Index of Real Income per Breadwinner.
	£				
1927-28	315				100·0
1928-29	299				94·9
1929-30	302				95·9
1930-31	287				91·1
1931-32	269				85·4
1932-33	280				88·9
1933-34	290				92·1
1934-35	311				98·7
1935-36	307				97·5
1936-37	307				97·5
1937-38	323				102·5
1938-39	330				104·8
1939-40	332 (a)				105·4 (a)

(a) Preliminary figures only.

Real income per breadwinner has increased by 23 per cent. compared with 1931-32.

RETAIL PRICES INDEXES—"C" SERIES.

Food, Groceries, Rent, Clothing, Fuel, Light, Fares, &c.

Weighted Average Five Towns.	1928.	1932.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
New South Wales	1,038	863	865	886	911	933	972
Victoria	987	811	843	866	893	920	960
Queensland ..	915	768	803	840	854	871	909
South Australia ..	1,019	801	835	855	883	902	931
Western Australia	1,009	852	870	884	897	915	946
Tasmania	966	838	850	866	879	898	936
Capital Cities—							
Sydney	1,042	867	866	889	913	936	974
Melbourne ..	992	813	844	868	896	924	964
Brisbane ..	917	764	804	837	852	870	908
Adelaide ..	1,027	802	839	859	888	906	936
Perth	1,012	840	856	869	882	901	932
Hobart	980	844	860	875	887	908	945

The cost of living is lower in Queensland than in the other States and lower in Brisbane than in the other capital cities.

COMPARISON OF COMMONWEALTH AND STATES BASIC WAGES—METROPOLITAN.

In the following statement comparisons are made between Commonwealth and State Court basic wages in the various capital cities. The figures in the columns headed "Adjusted State Basic Wage" show the amounts a worker would require in Brisbane to purchase the goods and services that he could buy with the State Basic Wages of other capitals. The last column shows the margin in favour of the Brisbane worker expressed in Brisbane purchasing power.

The comparison is on the basis of December Quarter, 1940.

Capital.	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Common- wealth Basic Wage.	State Basic Wage.	Adjusted State Basic Wage.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Brisbane.. ..	938	4 2 0	4 4 0	4 4 0	..
Sydney	1,008	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 1 11	2 1
Melbourne ..	989	4 6 0	4 6 0	4 1 7	2 5
Adelaide ..	957	4 2 0	4 4 0	4 2 4	1 8
Perth	953	4 1 0	4 5 4	4 4 0	..
Hobart	976	4 3 0	4 3 0	3 19 9	4 3

At present the workers in Brisbane and Perth (under Labour Governments) are better off than those in other capitals.

It should also be pointed out that the State Wage outside the Metropolitan (South-East) District in Queensland is greater than the Metropolitan Wage by 17s. 4d. in the North-Western District, 10s. in the Northern, 7s. 4d. in the South-Western, and 5s. 6d. in the Mackay District. In other States the wages in areas outside of the Metropolitan Districts are generally lower than the Metropolitan wage.

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Adult Males.

State.	Wages.		Hours.	
	30th June, 1932.	30th September, 1940.	30th June, 1932.	30th September, 1940.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		
New South Wales ..	92 6	97 9	44·19	43·89
Victoria	80 7	94 8	46·88	44·48
Queensland	88 8	97 5	44·99	43·46
South Australia ..	73 8	89 4	46·83	45·58
Western Australia ..	82 7	101 1	45·52	44·12
Tasmania	78 9	91 0	46·75	44·95
Australia	85 8	96 1	45·50	44·22

PART II.

"Lest We Forget."

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTS OF
LABOUR GOVERNMENT, 1915 TO 1929.

The summary hereunder will indicate at a glance the great advance made by Labour during its régime, 1915-1929, in the furtherance of the prosperity, comfort, and wellbeing of the people of Queensland.

LEGISLATION.

Agriculture and the Man on the Land.

1. "*Banana Industry Preservation Act of 1921.*"—Preserving the industry of the cultivation of bananas in Queensland for white Australian citizens.

2. "*Cotton Industry Act of 1921.*"—Providing for the marketing of cotton; authorising the acquirement of cotton by the State; and stabilising and improving the industry generally.

3. *Dairy Produce Act.*—An Act conducive to the welfare of dairymen; improvement in dairy produce and in the interests of the health of the community.

4. *Farm Produce Agents' Act.*—Protection of the man on the land, and also for the *bona fide* agent.

5. *Fertilizers Act and Pest Destroyers Act.*—Also passed in the interests of the man on the land.

6. *Fruit Marketing Organisation Act* providing for the organisation and marketing of Queensland fruit.

7. *Primary Producers' Organisation and Pools Acts.*—Organisation of the primary producers into a completely unified national organisation, giving farmers a direct voice in the solution of their agricultural and marketing problems, and based on the principle of co-operation; also introduction of pooling system.

8. *Primary Producers' Co-operative Association Act.*—Providing for the formation, registration, and management of primary producers' co-operative associations.

9. *State Produce Agency Act*.—Passed in the interests of producers and consumers with elimination of the middle-man.

10. *Various Acts*, such as Stallions Registration, Diseases in Stock, Stock Foods, Fruit and Vegetables (preventing topping), and a sound measure providing for the establishment of Primary Produce Experiment Stations.

Banking and Insurance.

1. "*The Agricultural Bank Act of 1923*."—Making provision for State advances to co-operative companies and associations and to farmers and others on liberal terms and conditions.

2. "*The Private Savings Bank Act of 1923*."—Regulation of private savings banks.

3. "*The Insurance Acts, 1916 to 1923*."—A general authorisation Act to enable the State to carry on insurance business, at the same time controlling insurance business generally.

Benefits of Office—

(1) Security—Policies guaranteed by the State.

(2) Economy—Through the State entering into competition with companies premiums have been reduced from 25 to 33½ per cent., saving the insuring public over £200,000 per annum.

(3) Co-operation principle.

4. "*The Insurance Act of 1923*."—Introduced to prevent the spread of "mushroom" insurance companies.

Constitutional.

Abolition of the Legislative Council by the 1921 Constitution Act: thus the Assembly are not hampered by a legislative body of nominees.

Education.

Such measures as Technical College Instruction Act, University Site Act, and "*The Agricultural Education Act of 1922*," the latter Act furnishing a basis of sound agricultural education and in rural, farm, and domestic science.

“ The Elections Act of 1915.”

Making provision whereby every adult person eligible to be enrolled shall be enrolled, and also that electors shall be given every facility to record their votes.

Electricity and Gas.

1. “*The Electrical Workers Acts, 1923 to 1927.*”—To make better provision for the execution of electrical works by competent and certificated persons; hence a measure of safety to the public generally.

2. “*The Gas Act of 1916.*”—Prescribing standards of heating power, purity and pressure of gas, and the regulation of the price thereof.

Humanitarian and Health.

1. *The State Children Acts Amendment, 1917-24.*—Assisting a State child during the currency of a scholarship, or at a State High School.

2. *Health Acts Amendment.*—Deals with food and drug supervision, restriction of use of white lead in paints, footwear, sewerage improvement, and the treatment of certain diseases.

3. “*The Maternity Act of 1922.*”—Establishment of maternity hospitals and baby clinics.

4. “*The Hospitals Act of 1923.*”—Making better provision for the maintenance, management, and regulation of hospitals and creation of districts.

5. A wide measure of reform, dealing with prevention of cruelty to animals—passed 1925.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRIAL.

“*The Industrial Arbitration Acts, 1916 to 1925.*”—Providing for the regulation of industrial conditions by means of a court (subsequently by the Board of Trade and Arbitration consisting of the President and two members). This beneficial and most advanced legislation was seriously amended by the Moore Government's Act of 1929.

However, the Labour Government by “*The Arbitration Act of 1932*” has practically restored to the worker Labour's original beneficial measure.

“*The Apprenticeship Act of 1924.*”—Regulation of apprenticeships in certain trades and industries.

“*The Labour Exchanges Act of 1915*” establishes State labour exchanges and regulates and licenses private exchanges.

Factories and Shops Amendment.—Beneficial amendments in existing law.

“*The Wages Act of 1918.*”—Making better provision for securing payment of wages to workers; eliminates the harsh provisions of the old Masters and Servants Acts (which were measures akin to the feudalism of ancient days).

Unemployed Workers Insurance Act.—A definite attempt to grapple with unemployment by the institution of a system of unemployment insurance.

“*The Workers’ Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1925.*”—Greatly extend the operation and scope of the restricted Acts of 1905 to 1909; definition of worker greatly extended; establishment of workers’ compensation insurance as a State monopoly, thereby enabling security of compensation payments to the worker.

Compensation Greatly Increased.—Maximum at death, £600; total incapacity, £750. Maximum weekly compensation £4 5s. per week (subsequently the maximum rate of compensation was fixed at the basic wage rate by the Moore Government); compensation payable in respect of certain injuries by means of scale. Compensation for certain industrial diseases, also for miner’s phthisis, lump sum settlements may be made.

Workers’ Accommodation.—Securing proper accommodation to workers engaged in many occupations.

Inspection of Machinery and Scaffolding Acts.—Closer supervision of machinery with a view to adequate protection of life and limb.

Trade Union Act.—Places trade unions on a sound basis.

Fair Rents.—Providing for determination of fair rents of dwelling-houses.

Workers' Dwellings (Savings Bank Act, 1916).—Extending the operation of Act to include persons receiving a salary up to £416 per annum; amount that may be borrowed increased from £350 to £800, and 16s. in the £1 may be advanced instead of 15s. in the £1 as previously.

Workers' Homes Acts.—Setting apart land for workers' homes and permitting of persons with limited income to secure a home, the tenure being on the perpetual lease system.

LAND LAWS.

"The Land Act Amendment Act of 1916" abolished the granting of land in fee-simple and established the perpetual lease system.

The Moore Government reverted during their régime to the freehold tenure, but the perpetual lease principle has been reintroduced by the Act of 1932 subject to existing rights and contractual obligations.

Various measures also assisted discharged soldiers in obtaining land on liberal terms, and assisted certain settlers on repurchased estates.

"The Prickly-pear Land Acts, 1923 to 1926."—Made better provision for the administration of lands infected with prickly-pear, and the results that the Board have subsequently achieved have been excellent; land available on very easy terms.

Such measures as the Upper Burnett and Callide Land Settlement Act and the Sugar Workers' Perpetual Leases Act may also be mentioned. An excellent measure of relief was passed in the Act of 1927, affording a sound measure of relief to settlers affected by droughts. Opportunity was also taken to provide for the further encouragement of development and land settlement, and the supplying of means to obtain proper living areas.

LEGAL REFORM.

1. *"The Supreme Court Act of 1921."*

2. *"The Magistrates Court Act of 1921."*—Ensuring that the law will be more accessible, more speedy, and less expensive.

3. *Auctioneers and Commission Agents Act*.—Protecting the public against the nefarious practices of the “snide” agent.

4. “*The Money Lenders Act of 1916*.”—Checking usury and extortion; debt collectors are prevented from charging a debt collecting fee.

5. “*The Criminal Code*.”—Abolition of capital punishment Act.

6. “*The Public Curator Acts, 1915 to 1926*”; “*The Public Curator Act of 1915*.”—The office of Public Curator is established. The Public Curator has very wide powers. He may act as executor, trustee, attorney, &c. The Public Defender undertakes the defence of poor prisoners, and his office conducts civil business on behalf of poor clients. Facilities are given to soldiers in drawing up wills, acting as guardian, &c. The office is practically a State legal bureau. The office of the Public Curator since its establishment has met a pressing public want, and the community in general is largely availing itself of its services.

There are special provisions dealing with unclaimed property and moneys, and returns of the latter are required to be furnished.

After six years, unclaimed moneys in banks are paid into the Public Curator Unclaimed Moneys Fund.

The Public Curator now undertakes auctioneering and general land and commission agency business.

Protection of estates of aged and infirm persons.

7. *Trust Accounts Acts*.—Regulation and management of trust accounts; security to the public and beneficiary.

MINING.

1. *Mines Regulation*.—Securing safety of life and limb to miners; establishment of “rescue stations.”

2. *Comprehensive Coal Mining Act*.

3. *Petroleum Act*.—Making provision for encouraging and regulating mining for petroleum.

MUNICIPAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Local Authorities Acts Amendment Act.—Adopting principle of State election qualifications to voting at local authority elections. Eliminating the ratepayer franchise, and providing for one adult one vote.

NOTE.—The Moore Government reverted to the “occupier franchise” during their régime; this, however, was repealed, and the electoral franchise substituted by Labour in 1932.

City of Brisbane Act.

Giving a wide charter of self-government to the citizens of Brisbane; election of mayor and aldermen on the adult franchise.

NOTE.—The Nationalist Government restricted this franchise to that of the “occupier franchise,” thereby depriving thousands of citizens of the right to vote; but the adult suffrage was restored by Labour in 1933.

Profiteering Prevention.

Making provision against charging unfair prices for commodities. Provisions also deal with illegal refusals to sell and illegal monopolies.

Railways Act.

Repeal of the Railway Guarantee provisions; a boon to farmers and settlers, relieving them to the extent of over £2,000,000.

Roads.

Constitution of the Main Roads Commission by “*The Main Roads Act of 1920.*” This Act has wrought great advantages in the direction of opening up lands for settlement by the making of roads available thereto.

Sugar.

Sugar Acquisition Act and Regulation of Sugar Cane Prices Act placed the sugar industry on a firm basis.

The above brief summary constitutes merely a part of the extensive legislative work of the Labour Government during its occupancy of the Treasury benches from 1915 to 1929. However, the brief summary above will indicate what splendid work Labour accomplished in that period, having placed Queensland in the vanguard of the progressive and democratic countries of the world.

ADMINISTRATION.

SOME OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS OF THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT, 1915 TO 1929.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

1. Institution of system of State farms for experimental purposes.

2. Organisation of the agricultural industry by the Primary Producers' Organisation Acts.

3. Institution of a system of pools, successful as a stabilising marketing factor—

Pools—Arrowroot, Atherton Maize, Atherton Pig, Broom Millet, Butter, Canary Seed, Cotton, Cheese, Egg, Peanut, Stanthorpe Tomato, Wheat.

4. Schools for Instruction in Pig-raising, and Schools of Instruction for members of Agricultural Project Clubs instituted.

5. Farmers' Wool Scheme.

6. Instructions in Poultry-raising.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Increased State children allowance and placed natural mothers on the same basis as the foster mother in regard to allowances.

Institution of Baby Clinics in the important centres, and also the institution of a Child Welfare training course.

Increased to over 100 per cent. the expenditure for charitable and benevolent purposes—

1914-15 Denham Government	..	..	£410,124
1927-28 Labour Government	..	..	£821,810

Comprehensive programme as to institution of *Maternity Hospitals* in the State.

State Children Allowances.

Paid to widows, deserted wives, and wives with sick husbands unable to work for their children under fourteen years of age. State Children are boarded out to foster mothers.

Prior to the Labour Government's assumption of office in 1915, the following allowances were paid under the anti-Labour Government:—

Old Rate—

Payment to *natural mother*—

5s. per week for first child and 4s. per week for each additional child.

Payment to *foster mothers*—

Southern District—7s. per week for each child over two years; 10s. per week for each child under two years.

Central and Northern Districts—8s. per week for each child over two years; 10s. per week for each child under two years.

Hence the *foster mother* under the anti-Labour Government prior to 1915 received more than the *natural mother*.

Under Labour Government.

In December 1915 the Labour Government not only increased the allowance but made it the same for *natural mothers* as for *foster mothers*.

The payments were:—

—			Under 2 Years, per week.	Over 2 Years to 13 Years, per week.
			s. d.	s. d.
Southern District	..	..	10 0	7 0
Central District	..	..	10 0	8 0
Northern District	..	..	10 0	8 0

The rates were amended on two occasions, and the age extended from thirteen to fourteen years by the Labour Government.

In 1929, prior to the advent of the *Moore Government's régime*, the rates paid by the Labour Government were:—

—			Under 2 Years, per week.	Between 2 and 12 Years, per week.	Over 12 to 14 Years, per week.
			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Southern District	..		10 0	9 6	10 0
Central District	..		10 0	10 0	10 0
Northern District	..		10 0	10 0	10 0

Under the Moore anti-Labour Government the rates were reduced to the following rates:—

—			Under 2 Years, per week.	Between 2 and 12 Years, per week.	Over 12 to 14 Years, per week.
			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Southern District	..		9 0	8 6	9 0
Central District	..		9 0	9 0	9 0
Northern District	..		9 0	9 0	9 0

The reduction for natural mothers took effect from 1st September, 1930.

The reduction for foster mothers took effect from 1st October, 1930.

Under Labour Government, 1932.

The Labour Government, on 11th November, 1932, restored the rates to what they were in operation prior to 1st September, 1930—an action just in the interests of humanity and the care of women and children.

PUBLIC SERVANTS' INCREASES.

Increases granted to Public Servants by Labour Governments.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCREASES, PUBLIC SERVICE (INCLUDING TEACHERS).

Amount paid in Increases, Financial Year--

					£
1914-15*	..	..	..	..	—
1915-16	..	..	..	..	24,497
1916-17	..	..	..	..	28,689
1917-18	..	..	..	..	119,562
1918-19	..	..	..	..	100,998
1919-20	..	..	..	..	319,223
1920-21	..	..	..	..	371,800
1921-22	..	..	..	..	79,209
1922-23	..	..	..	..	39,074
1923-24	..	..	..	..	94,777
1924-25	..	..	..	..	213,283
1925-26†	..	..	..	..	160,198
1926-27	..	..	..	..	105,572
1927-28	..	..	..	..	106,212
Total	..	..	..	..	£1,763,094

For the same period the increase to officers of the Railway Department amounted to £2,584,072

Grand Total, including the Public Service, Teachers, and Railway Service‡ .. £4,347,166

Actual increased expenditure as a result of the operation of the 44-hour week (1925-26)—

				£
Public Service	..	..	..	47,404
Railways	..	..	..	170,000
				£217,404

* In addition an amount of £52,444, withheld by the Denham Government, was paid in June, 1915.

† Including increases consequent upon variation of basic wage.

‡ Including £338,100, being increase consequent upon variation of basic wage.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Comparing Expenditure of 1914-15 (Tory Government).

1914, £744,819; 1915, £730,163—£1,474,982.

with expenditure under the Labour Government—

1927, £1,655,260; 1928, £1,769,843—£3,425,103—

an increase of over 140 per cent.

Increase in number of schools—

1914—number of schools open 1,346

1928—number of schools open 1,709

Abolition of quarter-money; establishment of rural schools in country centres; and training of subnormal children.

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

—					Cost.	Number of Scholarships.
					£	
1914	..	..	..	..	9,206	368
1928	..	..	..	..	51,091	1,869

The Moore Government reduced scholarships, but the Labour Government has restored them on a qualifying basis.

Medical and dental inspection and establishment of a rail dental clinic.

Assistance to workers' tutorial classes and Educational Association.

Education of isolated families by system of correspondence tuition school.

WORKERS' HOMES.

(Inaugurated by Labour.)

The comparison between applications lodged for workers' dwellings and workers' homes is as follows:—

—					Workers' Dwellings.	Workers' Homes.
1922-23	..	..	..	..	972	182
1923-24	..	..	..	..	969	341
1924-25	..	..	..	..	642	351
1925-26	..	..	..	..	1,140	512
1926-27	..	..	..	..	1,048	518
1927-28	..	..	..	..	826	569

The object of the scheme is to enable persons to secure a home with as small a cash outlay as possible, who, owing to their financial circumstances, are unable to contribute the deposit necessary for obtaining a workers' dwelling advance. Its provisions are so generous that any eligible person in Queensland who possesses £20 to £30 in cash need not, unless he so desires, be living in a rented house. A cash deposit of £30 towards a building cost £600, with a proportionately smaller deposit for a lesser cost, together with £5 ls. to cover fees, will secure for any eligible person a home of approved design selected by him, and erected on a site chosen by himself and provided for him by the Government.

SOME RAILWAY STATISTICS UNDER LABOUR GOVERNMENT—1915-1928.

Improved Conditions of Employees.

The amount paid in increases from 1915-16 to 30th June, 1928, is as under:—

					Permanent Staff.	Construction Staff.
					£	£
1915-16	..	..	..	..	228,154	60,000
1916-17	..	..	..	..	31,500	40,000
1917-18	..	..	..	..	438,260	..
1918-19	..	..	..	..	162,429	44,500
1919-20	..	..	..	..	352,552	72,461
1920-21	..	..	..	..	465,608	25,784
1921-22	..	..	..	..	189,695	5,583
1922-23	..	..	..	..	*109,924	*16,159
1923-24	..	..	..	..	24,689	347
1924-25	..	..	..	..	20,925	*145
1925-26	..	..	..	..	412,337	18,696
1926-27	..	..	..	..	65,346	754
1927-28	..	..	..	..	49,983	587
Grand Total					£2,583,962	

* Net reduction.

The amount expended in the erection of cottages for fettlers and other employees from 1915-16 to 30th June, 1928, totalled £118,888.

Concessions to Industries.

During periods of depression and drought various industries, such as the pastoral, dairying, and mining industries, have been subsidised to the extent of over a million pounds per medium of freight rebates.

The Railway Department grants substantial preference to Queensland manufacturers. Orders for the construction of a large number of locomotives are placed with Queensland firms. Substantial contracts for wagons, too, were also placed with Queensland contractors during the past three years of the Labour Government.

The Government is recognising the principle of decentralisation by placing substantial orders with railway workshops in Central and Northern Queensland.

Concessions to Returned Soldiers.

Returned soldiers suffering from severe war injuries have been granted generous railway concessions.

Railway Reduced Fares to Seaside Resorts.

Greater facilities at greatly reduced railway rates for country women and children to visit the coast, at least once a year, have been provided by the Labour Government.

GENERAL**Anti-Conscription.**

It must not be forgotten that the Labour Government in Queensland were solidly against conscription during the war, and that the Labour Government and Party in this State were greatly in the forefront in opposing the shackling of a free people in Australia by the chains of conscription for military service outside the Commonwealth.

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